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Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC) Manual Overview


Excerpt from:

The Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC) (McCrea, Kelly, Randolph, 1995) was developed in response to and in accordance with the recommendations of the Colorado and AAN Colorado Guidelines. The SAC was also designed in line with what the neuropsychological literature demonstrates to be the domains of function most sensitive to the effects of mild traumatic brain injury and Concussion (Capruso & Levin, 1992), and the tests best suited to measuring those functions in brain injury patients (Clifton, 1992).

The SAC is intended as a standardized means of objectively documenting the presence and severity of neurocognitive impairment associated with concussion, thereby immediately providing additional information to athletic trainers and other medical personnel responsible for clinical decision making in care of athletes. The content and length of the SAC were constrained by the conditions of rapid sideline evaluation, and the parameter that it be designed for use by clinicians with no prior expertise in psychometric testing. The SAC is not intended as a substitute for formal neurologic or neuropsychological evaluation of the injured athletes. The SAC is also not meant as a stand-alone device for diagnosing concussion or decision making on return-to-play, but provides objective data on mental status abnormalities that should be correlated with other clinical information in the assessment of an athlete following concussion.

The contents of this manual provide an overview of the SAC’s construction, detailed instructions on the administration and scoring of the instrument, and guidelines for clinical interpretation. Extensive normative data is presented, as well as results of studies on the clinical sensitivity of the SAC in detecting sports-related concussion. Several appendices also include helpful information on the symptoms of concussion and recommended guidelines for the management of sports-related concussion.
Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction
   Acknowledgements
   Background and Significance
   Development of the SAC

Chapter 2. Organization of the SAC

Chapter 3. Test Materials and Use
   Test Materials
   Professional Qualifications
   Appropriate Populations
   Models for Use
   General Test Considerations
   Administration Time
   Limits/Misuse
   Test Security and Copyright Restrictions

Chapter 4. Administration and Scoring
   Introduction
   Orientation
   Immediate Memory
   Neurologic Screening
   Concentration
   Exertional Maneuvers
   Delayed Recall Memory
   SAC Scoring Summary

Chapter 5. Normative Information
   Normative Sample
   Normative Distribution
   Competitive and Educational Levels
   Gender Effects
   Equivalence of Forms
   Effects of Exam Conditions
   Effects of Specific Sport
   Summary and Normative Guidelines

Chapter 6. Reliability and Validity
   Reliability
   Test-Retest Reliability
   Inter-Rater Reliability
   Clinical Validity
   Subtest Intercorrelations
   Validity
   Content Validity
   Construct Validity
   Correlation with External Measures
   Clinical Validity
   Reliable Change, Sensitivity, and Specificity
   Sensitivity to Post-Concussion Cognitive Recovery
   Effects of Loss of Consciousness and Post-Traumatic Amnesia
   Baseline vs. No Baseline
   User Satisfaction
Chapter 7. Guidelines for Interpretation

General Guidelines
Value of Baseline Testing
High School vs. College Criteria
Loss of Consciousness and Post-Traumatic Amnesia
Warning

Chapter 8. References

Author Information.

Appendices.

Appendix A. American Academy of Neurology Concussion Grading Scale
Appendix B. Features of Concussion Frequently Observed
Appendix C. Guidelines for the Management of Concussion in Athletes
Appendix D. Guidelines for Return to Play by Athletes After Concussion
Appendix E. Comprehensive Model of Concussion Assessment
Appendix F.1. Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC): Form A
Appendix F.1. Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC): Form B
Appendix F.1. Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC): Form C

Enclosures.

SAC Instructional Video
100 SAC Baseline Test Forms A, B, C
15 SAC Pocket-sized Exam Cards A, B, C
Related Data, Research, and Publications


