

## *Brief Cognitive Rating Scale (BCRS)*

### **What is the Brief Cognitive Rating Scale?**

The Brief Cognitive Rating Scale (BCRS) is an objective tool that consists of five axes that assess concentration, recent memory, past memory, orientation, functioning and self-care. The BCRS coincides with the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) and the Functional Assessment Staging (FAST) tools to determine the stage of cognitive decline and functional status. The BCRS takes about 15-30 minutes to administer. Time may vary depending on setting and case complexity.

### **Population the Brief Cognitive Rating Scale Serves**

The BCRS is designed to assess aging adult individuals with cognitive impairment. It can be used in a variety of settings such as in the community, long term care, and inpatient or outpatient practice.

### **Importance of Brief Cognitive Rating Scale**

Using the objective rating criteria of five different axes, the BCRS is a clinical rating instrument that coincides optimally with each of the corresponding stages within the GDS and the FAST. The sum total of each of five axes within the BCRS is calculated and divided by five to determine the stage that corresponds to the GDS or FAST. Identification of the cognitive and functional stage for individuals with cognitive impairment is useful for health care providers and other care-partners in understanding how the presentation of dementia may change over time and for development of person-centered care plans and care-partner education.

### **Psychometric Properties**

When testing “institutionalized geriatric patients with mild to severe symptoms of age associated cognitive decline” the inter-rater reliability is excellent and internal consistency is excellent.<sup>3</sup> When compared to the Digit Symbol Substitution Test for psychomotor functioning, the concurrent validity is excellent ( $r=0.76$ ,  $p \leq .001$ ).<sup>4</sup> When compared to the Global Deterioration Scale the convergent validity is excellent on all axes.<sup>3</sup> Normative values for individuals  $\geq 40$  years old with Subjective Cognitive Impairment: Total BCRS Score =  $8.97 \pm 1.6$  ( $p < .001$ ).<sup>5</sup>

### **Cut-Off Scores**

The BCRS staging score is based on the five axes: concentration, recent memory, past memory, orientation, and functioning and self-care. There are no cut off scores exactly, yet each clinical axis has a scale ranging from 1 to 7.

## Resources

1. Holmes T, Reynolds A. Brief Cognitive Rating Scale. Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. Published 2018. Accessed October 14, 2023. <https://www.sralab.org/rehabilitation-measures/brief-cognitive-rating-scale>.
2. McDougall GJ. A review of screening instruments for assessing cognition and mental status in older adults. *Nurse Pract.* 1990;15(11):18-28.
3. Reisberg B. Functional Assessment Staging (FAST). *Psychopharmacology Bulletin.* 1988; 24(4), 653–659.
4. Reisberg B, Ferris SH, Anand R, de Leon MJ, Schneck MK, Crook T. Clinical assessment of cognitive decline in normal aging and primary degenerative dementia: Concordant ordinal measures. *Psychiatry.* 1985;333-338.
5. Reisberg B, Shulman MB, Torossian C, Leng L, Zhu W. Outcome over seven years of healthy adults with and without subjective cognitive impairment. *Alzheimer's & Dementia.* 2010; 6(1). doi: 10.1016/j.jalz.2009.10.002.
6. Weissberg K. Brief Cognitive Rating Scale [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=590DfFjdJLI>. Published July 18, 2012. Accessed October 1, 2023.

## Video explaining more information about the Brief Cognitive Rating Scale:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=590DfFjdJLI>

## Links to Test:

1. <https://www.sralab.org/rehabilitation-measures/brief-cognitive-rating-scale>

## Disclaimer:

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab: <https://www.sralab.org/website-disclaimer>