

SCREENING FOR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES

Authors: Berry Jamie^{1,2}, Sedwell Antoinette³, Lunn Jo⁴

¹Macquarie University, NSW, Sydney, Australia, ²Advanced Neuropsychological Treatment Services, NSW, Sydney, Australia, ³Agency for Clinical Innovation, NSW, Australia, ⁴ We Help Ourselves, NSW, Sydney, Australia

Presenter's email: Antoinette.sedwell@health.nsw.gov.au

Introduction / Issues OR Introduction and Aims: This study examined the discriminant validity of the Drug and Alcohol Cognitive Impairment Screening Tool (DACIST) and Brief Executive Assessment Tool (BEAT), in adult substance use disorder (SUD) residential treatment. The DACIST is a 12 item risk factor questionnaire that takes less than two minutes to administer. The BEAT is a cognitive screening test that takes approx. 20 minutes to administer.

Method / Approach OR Design and Methods: In a sample of n=170 SUD treatment residents and n=94 normal controls, optimal cut-scores were derived for both the DACIST and BEAT. The SUD group was 10 times more likely to score in the impaired range on the DACIST and over 2.5 times more likely to score in the impaired range on the BEAT than the normal controls. A ternary classification system was developed including the levels: i) no impairment (intact range on both tools), ii) mild impairment (impaired range on one of the tools) and iii) severe impairment (impaired range on both tools). Base rates of SUD versus normal controls were compared across the ternary classification levels.

Key Findings OR Results: As predicted, individuals with SUD were more likely than normal controls to be classified with mild (43% vs 19%) and severe (29% vs 3%) cognitive impairment. Seventy-eight percent of the normal sample were classified as having no impairment compared to 28% of the SUD sample.

Discussions and Conclusions: The results established the discriminant validity of using the DACIST and BEAT in combination to screen for cognitive impairment in SUD residential treatment services.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil