**Aberrant Behavior Checklist (ABC)**

The ABC is a symptom checklist for assessing problem behaviors in individuals ages 6 to 54 with mental retardation. It is a 58 item checklist which takes about 10 – 15 minutes to complete. There are five subscales: a) Irritability and Agitation b) Lethargy and Social Withdrawal c) Stereotypic Behavior d) Hyperactivity and Noncompliance and e) Inappropriate Speech.

ABC is a sound measure of non-diagnostic or associated features of Autism Spectrum Disorder (Brinkley et al., 2006). Shedlack, Hennen, Magee & Cheron (2005) found the ABC identifies salient features of mental illness in individuals with mental retardation. These authors also found the ABC to be a more sensitive tool than the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) in the diagnosis of mental illness in this population. The ABC has been proven to be an effective tool in measuring treatment response (Schroeder, Rojahn & Reese, 1997 and Shedlack et al., 2005).

**Behavior Problems Inventory (BPI)**

The BPI is also a 52 item rating scale which measures self injurious behaviors (SIB), stereotyped behavior and aggressive/destructive behavior. This tool addresses these three behavior categories in greater detail than the ABC. This instrument has been found to be reliable and valid measurement of its constructs (González et al, 2009 and Rojahn, Matson, Lott, Esbensen & Smalls, 2001). No research could be found regarding the use of this instrument in the diagnosis of mental illnesses.

**Reiss Screen for Maladaptive Behavior**

The Reiss Screen for Maladaptive Behavior screens for mental health problems in persons with mental retardation. This tool is a 38 item rating scale. It has been found to be a valid and reliable screening tool (Sturmey, Burcham, Perkins, 1995 and Sturmey, 2009). Kishore, Nizamine,
Nizamie (2005) found this tool would be beneficial in finding behavioral clusters associated with psychiatric diagnoses.

**References**


