

Outcome Measure	The Awareness of Social Inference Test (TASIT)
Sensitivity to Change	Yes
Population	Adult and Adolescent
Domain	Social Cognition
Type of Measure	Objective test
ICF-Code/s	b1, d7
Description	<p>TASIT (McDonald et al., 2003) is an ecologically valid, and clinically sensitive and valid, measure of simple emotion perception and complex social cognition. Participants are required to integrate cues from various sources (e.g., facial expressions, prosody, gesture, and social context) to interpret the emotions, beliefs and intentions (i.e., TOM) of target characters in videotaped conversational interactions. There are 2 alternative equivalent forms (Form A & B). The TASIT was designed as a criterion referenced test in that 'normal' English speakers are expected to perform near ceiling on all subtests.</p> <p>Participants are tested on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Part 1: <i>The Emotion Evaluation Test</i>, which comprises 28 short video clips portraying one of six basic emotions (happy, sad, fear, disgust, surprise and anger) plus neutral; (2) Part 2: <i>Social Inference – Minimal</i>, a TOM task that is comprised of 15 video clips depicting sincere and sarcastic interactions between two actors; and (3) Part 3: <i>Social Inference - Enriched</i>, another TOM task comprised of sixteen vignettes where participants are provided with extra information about the true state of affairs before or after the dialogue of interest. The ability to detect deception (i.e., lies) in social encounters and sarcasm is examined in Part 3.
Properties	<p><u>Test-retest reliability</u>: in severe brain injured adults after 1 week is .74 for Part 1, .88 for Part 2, and .83 for Part 3 (McDonald et al., 2006).</p> <p><u>Alternative form reliability</u>: in severe brain injured adults with the alternative form administered after a 5-26 weeks period is .83 for Part 1, .62 for Part 2, and .78 for Part 3 (McDonald et al., 2006).</p> <p><u>Practice effects</u>: There are no practice effects with re-administration following 1 week on Form A (McDonald et al., 2006).</p> <p><u>Construct validity</u>: All parts of TASIT correlate with IQ. Face perception (BFRT) is significantly associated with emotion expression recognition in Part 1. Providing evidence for the convergent validity, generic measures of information processing speed (WAIS-III SS, TMT-A & B), working memory (WAIS-III DS & LNS) and socially orientated tasks of new-learning and executive processing (WAIS-III Sim, WMS-III LM I & Faces) were generally associated with TASIT; as were the experimental social tasks (e.g. Ekman</p>

	<p>Faces) with the exception of first order ToM stories (Bibby & McDonald, 2005) and the receiving and processing aspects of Assessment of Interpersonal Problem Solving Skills (AIPSS). Evidence for divergent validity emerged from the absence of correlation between TASIT and most of the learning and executive processing of non-social information and the physical inference (control) story from the social perception measures (see Flanagan & McDonald, 2011).</p> <p><u>Concurrent validity:</u> TASIT can discriminate TBI participants and normal controls (McDonald & Flanagan, 2004; McDonald, Flanagan, Martin, & Saunders, 2004; McDonald, Flanagan, Rollins, & Kinch, 2003; McDonald & Saunders, 2005).</p> <p><u>Ecological validity:</u> TASIT is associated with different aspects of spontaneous social behaviour, in particular the use of humour and partner directed behaviour. There is no correlation with SPSS Positive or Negative behaviours. Thus, failure to recognise social cues on TASIT, translates into observable and reliable difficulties in spontaneous social situations.</p> <p>Additional details can be found in the TASIT Manual (McDonald, Flanagan & Rollins, 2011).</p> <p>Normative data for adolescents is in the TASIT manual (McDonald et al., 2011) and further data for adolescents aged 13-15 are provided in McDonald, Fisher, Togher, Tate, Rushby, English, Kelly, Mathersul, Fforeich & Francis (2015). Overall, adolescents score lower than adults, but are still able to accurately identify emotions and indirect meanings. Strong gender differences are apparent and the authors recommend that gender-based normative comparisons are utilized (McDonald et al., 2015).</p>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is an ecologically valid test that has good reliability and construct validity. • The test can be administered by a non-psychologist. • The test measures various aspects of social cognition including emotion perception and more complex (higher order) social cognition. • There are no similar measures currently available. • It has been used extensively in TBI research.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is lengthy to administer (about 60 to 85 minutes for TBI people). • The test must be purchased (\$375). • Is based on Australian culture and Australian English. Thus may not be applicable to other cultures.
Reviewers	Skye McDonald

References

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