Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS) Description

Overview

Brief screens can help people decide whether to seek formal evaluation of their gambling behavior. The 3-item BBGS[1] is based on the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) criteria for gambling disorder.

Scoring

A "yes" response to any single item indicates potential gambling-related problems and the need for additional evaluation.

Psychometric Properties

For identifying individuals with gambling disorder, Gebauer et al. (2010), report that the BBGS has good psychometric characteristics: high sensitivity (0.96) and high specificity (0.99). The Positive Predictive Value of the BBGS is 0.37. This suggests that one of three individuals who screen positive on the BBGS will be identified as having gambling disorder after full follow-up.

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[1] Gebauer, L., LaBrie, R. A., Shaffer, H. J. (2010). Optimizing DSM IV classification accuracy: A brief bio-social screen for detecting current gambling disorders among gamblers in the general household population. Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, 55(2), 82-90.

Cambridge Health Alliance

HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL
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Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS) Questionnaire

Name _____   Date _____

To screen for potential gambling-related problems, please complete the following questions.[2]

1. During the past 12 months, have you become restless irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. During the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. During the past 12 months did you have such financial trouble as a result of your gambling that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends or welfare?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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[2] An online version of the BBGS is available at www.divisiononaddiction.org/bbgs_new/.