

## **DUI CLIENT'S HIGH SAT INDICATES LACK OF AWARENESS**

Bob B. is a 43-year old male who was referred by his attorney for a substance abuse evaluation following a traffic fatality in which he was driving under the influence. Mr. B. seems to have understood the items and responded in a meaningful way (RAP = 0). There is no significant evidence that Mr. B. was defensive (DEF = 7).

The most salient feature of the profile is the significantly elevated SAT score, which is a key feature in both decision rules that lead to a test positive on the SASSI (Decision Rules 5 and 6). His responses were highly similar to substance dependent individuals regardless of their ability or willingness to report symptoms relevant to substance misuse. Given the lack of evidence of defensive responding, it's likely that Mr. B. falls in the category of those who are unaware of the full impact of substance use problems in their lives.

Individuals with this configuration of scores are often willing to acknowledge some behavioral problems related to their substance use. Mr. B. demonstrates this by acknowledging significant current and/or past alcohol (FVA=12) and drug (FVOD=10) use. His pattern of responding also indicates some awareness of behavioral problems that are commonly associated with individuals with substance use disorders: low frustration tolerance, self-centeredness, grandiosity, etc. (OAT=7). However, given the elevated SAT, he will most likely not be able to make any connection between his acknowledged use and behavioral problems and their impact on other areas of his life.

He also responds in a fashion similar to individuals who live in an environment dominated by substance abuse (SYM=5). Although the SYM is not extremely elevated, it does tend to support the notion that Mr. B. may view his substance use as normal. Further content analysis may reveal additional factors about his life circumstances that might be important to consider in treatment planning.

Mr. B. may be relatively well presented. He may also appear to be emotionally detached while maintaining a sense of pragmatism regarding his situation. Relatively poor insight and self-awareness are commonly present in these types of profiles. It's not that Mr. B. refuses to understand or is intentionally resistant; he literally doesn't grasp that his substance use may be a problem that requires further exploration. In his mind, external factors or stressors may be to blame for his current predicament. The possibility that this tragic incident may be directly related to a substance use problem would be quite difficult for Mr. B. to understand at this time.

In light of Mr. B.'s lack of awareness, he may need special help to engage in a process of change. Efforts directed at forcing him to accept his substance use disorder may be counterproductive. Although an ultimate treatment goal would be greater awareness and expression of feelings, cognitively oriented interventions may be more effective initially. Individuals with high SAT scores are sometimes able to acknowledge a sense of something missing in their lives but aren't sure what it is. Further exploration in this area may lead to some identification and personalization of a problem that he can accept. Assisting Mr. B. in the expression of feelings associated with the problem may ultimately help him to define a need for change in a way to which he can commit. This approach would hopefully establish the groundwork leading to further investigation of the nature of Mr. B.'s substance use and what changes would help him come to grips with the tragic consequences of his substance misuse and enhance the quality of his life. Referral to community self-help support groups would also be an effective way to increase personal insights that may lead to further processing of feelings.

Name Bob B. Gender M Age 43  
 Case Number \_\_\_\_\_ Test date \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Male Profile								
Face Valid Alcohol	Face Valid Other Drugs	Symptoms	Obvious Attributes	Subtle Attributes	Defensiveness	Supplemental Addiction Measure	Family vs. Controls	Correctional
FVA	FVOD	SYM	OAT	SAT	DEF	SAM	FAM	COR
12	10	5	7	6	7	3	9	4

Sum Total = 60 All four Yes No

**THE DECISION RULE:**

1. ANY rule answered "yes"?



**HIGH PROBABILITY**  
 of moderate to severe Substance Use Disorder

2. ALL rules answered "no"?



**LOW PROBABILITY**  
 of moderate to severe Substance Use Disorder

**Mild Substance Use Disorder Guideline**

Check if any are "yes"? FVA 9 or more \_\_\_ FVOD 9 or more \_\_\_ SYM 6 or more \_\_\_  
 OAT 8 or more \_\_\_ SAT 5 or more \_\_\_

Further evaluation is suggested if any are checked "yes."

Check if DEF is 8 or more \_\_\_\_\_. Elevated DEF scores increase the possibility of the SASSI missing individuals with a substance use disorder. Elevated DEF may also reflect situational factors.

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