



Interpreting the Results of an Adolescent SASSI-A3 with a High OAT Score

Happy New Year everyone!

I received my first Adolescent A-3 call on the helpline and was so excited and when I heard the numbers, I knew exactly why the clinician was calling.

As you look at the profile, you can see most of the numbers are within the norm. He meets Rule 6 so comes up with a High Probability of a Substance Use Disorder and no Prescription Drug Abuse. So, what clinical information can the scale scores give you with so few scales outside the norm?

Although the FVOD is within the norm, it is above average and as recommended, you can do content analysis of his Face Valid scales. Another scale to pay attention to is the OAT score of 7 which is elevated. This suggests the client can acknowledge personal limitations and shortcomings and identify with other substance abusers. However, he may not want to or think he can change. The other significant score is SAT with a score of 1 which is below the 15th percentile. This suggests he may be hypersensitive to others and comes across as having a chip on his shoulder. This gives you good information on how to approach this client, especially when giving him feedback as you process the results with him because he is not giving you a whole lot of direct information regarding his use.

A word about the VAL of 6. If the numbers had resulted in a Low Probability of a Substance Use Disorder, you would question the results and do further investigation. Because he met Rule 6, there is no need to address the VAL. That said, with the VAL being so high, was this individual trying to manipulate the questionnaire and didn't succeed?

Finally, users of the older version will notice that the SCS has been eliminated. This will require your use of the DSM-5 to determine the diagnosis and level of severity from your assessment.

Hope this information is instructive and assists you in your practice. And remember, as usual, we are here to help, so give the clinical line a call at 800.726.0526, press option 2.

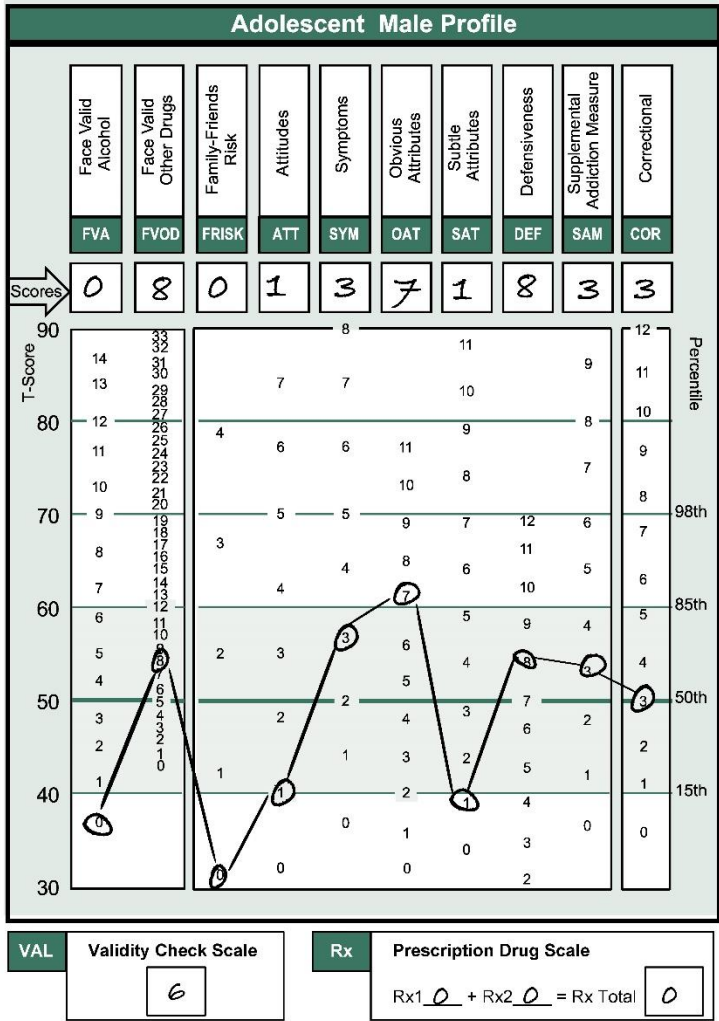
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Professionals may call **888-297-2774** for free assistance interpreting this profile.

Name _____ Gender **M** Age **17**

Case Number _____ Test date _____



Check every rule, yes or no.

- Rule 1**
- a. FVA 7 or more **Either**
- b. FVOD 12 or more **a or b?**
-
- Rule 2**
- FRISK 5 or more?
-
- Rule 3**
- SYM 6 or more?
-
- Rule 4**
- SAT 7 or more?
-
- Rule 5**
- a. OAT 7 or more
- b. SAT 6 or more
- c. DEF 2 or more
- d. SAM 4 or more **All four a, b, c and d?**
-
- Rule 6**
- a. FVOD 7 or more
- b. FRISK **OR** ATT **OR** SYM 3 or more
- c. OAT 5 or more **All three a, b and c?**
-
- Rule 7**
- a. FVA **OR** FVOD 5 or more
- b. OAT 4 or more
- c. DEF 9 or more **All three a, b and c?**
-
- Rule 8**
- a. FVA **OR** FVOD 5 or more
- b. SAT 3 or more
- c. DEF 4 or more
- d. SAM 3 or more **All four a, b, c and d?**

THE DECISION RULE:

1. ANY rule answered "yes"?



HIGH PROBABILITY
of having a Substance Use Disorder

Check if Rx is 2 or more ____ Consider further evaluation for Prescription Drug Abuse.

2. ALL rules answered "no"?



LOW PROBABILITY
of having a Substance Use Disorder

Check if VAL is 5 or more ____ or, DEF is 10 or more ____

Elevated VAL and DEF scores increase the possibility of the SASSI missing individuals with a substance use disorder. Elevated DEF may also reflect situational factors. Consider further evaluation.