

## **Jamison: Patient Education and Wellness**

### **HANDOUT 17.2: SCREENING TOOLS FOR ALCOHOL ABUSE**

If you tick a box, check your score to see whether you have a problem with alcohol.

#### **CAGE SCORE**

Have you ever felt you should **C**ut down on your drinking?

Have people **A**nnoyed you by criticizing your drinking?

Have you ever felt bad or **G**uilty about drinking?

Do you need an **E**ye-opener/drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

*Alcohol problem – 2 positive answers (74% sensitive, 75% specific)*

Sensitivity score: 1 positive answer, 85%; 2 positive answers, 74%

Specificity score: 4 positive answers, 100%; 3 positive answers, 91%; 2 positive answers, 75%

#### **FOR PREGNANT WOMEN: T-AGE**

Does it take **T**wo or more drinks to make you feel high?

Have people **A**nnoyed you by criticizing your drinking?

Have you ever felt bad or **G**uilty about drinking?

Do you need an **E**ye-opener/drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

*Alcohol problem – 2 positive answers (74% sensitive, 75% specific)*

#### **TWEAC QUESTIONNAIRE**

How many drinks can you hold? (**T**olerance) – more than five before passing out is positive

Have close friends or relatives **W**orried or complained about your drinking in the past year?

Do you need an **E**ye-opener/drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

Has a close friend or relative ever told you about things you said or did while you were drinking that you could not remember? (**A**mnnesia)

Have you ever felt you should **C**ut down on your drinking?

*There is an alcohol problem if your score is 3 or more (94% sensitive and 89% specific)*

#### **TICS**

TICS (**T**wo-**I**tem **C**onjoint **S**creen) comprises the following two questions:

In the last year, have you ever drunk or used drugs more than you meant to?

Have you felt you wanted or needed to cut down on your drinking or drug use in the last year?

At least one positive response to the TICS detects current substance use disorders with nearly 80% sensitivity and specificity. The TICS was particularly sensitive to polysubstance use disorders. Respondents who gave 0, 1, and 2 positive responses had a 7.3%, 36.5%, and 72.4% chance of a current substance use disorder, respectively; likelihood ratios were 0.27, 1.93, and 8.77.

See

[http://www.bupa.co.uk/health\\_information/asp/healthy\\_living/lifestyle/alcohol/alctest.asp](http://www.bupa.co.uk/health_information/asp/healthy_living/lifestyle/alcohol/alctest.asp)

<http://www.atgetfit.net/alcohol/tests/default.aspx>

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/alcohol-use/MH00123>

*Alcohol contributed approximately 3.5% of the total global disease burden in 1990.*