

Critical Synthesis Package: Script Concordance Testing (SCT)

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Special Clearance
Required

**Description**

This Critical Synthesis Package contains (1) a Critical Analysis of the psychometric properties and application to health sciences education for the Script Concordance Test (SCT); (2) a copy of the SCT instrument developed Bernard Charlin, MD, PhD; and (3) an SCT overview.

Script Concordance Testing (SCT) is a method for assessing clinical data interpretation skills. This method leverages a written simulation item format to address ill-defined problems typical to clinical practice. The examinee is presented with ill-defined clinical scenarios. These scenarios are followed by a set of hypotheses. For each hypothesis the examinee is provided with an additional piece of information. The examinee is then required to make judgments as to the likelihood of the hypothesis by selecting a Likert-type response option. Points awarded for the examinee's concordance with the judgments provided by a panel of expert judges. The SCT has been used across many clinical domains and with examinees of varying levels of clinical experience. Research in SCT has identified guidelines for developing quality test items. An advantage of using this item format is the use of expert panels to analyze and compare examinee responses. Disadvantages to using this item format include the lack of validity evidence for the response process and the complex of the scoring process. Further research is needed to determine how best to use SCT to improve teaching and learning.

Citation

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General Information**Educational Objectives**

1. To describe the purpose and basic properties of Script Concordance Testing, including psychometric properties;
2. To describe the application of Script Concordance Testing to the field of health sciences education;
3. To evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of Script Concordance Testing; and
4. To provide Script Concordance Testing and supplemental materials to aid in its administration.

Keywords

Script Concordance Testing, SCT, Instrument Validation, Validation Studies (MeSH), Educational Measurement (MeSH), Clinical Reasoning, DREAM, Directory and Repository of Educational Assessment Measures

Competencies

Knowledge for Practice
Patient Care

Instructional Methods

Assessment

Intended Audience

Professional Interest

Assessment

Cognition, Human Learning & Problem

Solving

Practicing Health Professional

Physician

Veterinarian

Professional School

Allied Health Student

Medical Student

Nursing Student

Pharmacy Student

Professional School Post-Graduate

Training

Resident

Format

Evaluation Tool

Authors & Co-Authors**Primary Author**

Javarro Russell, PhD

National Board of Medical Examiners

Outcomes**Effectiveness and Significance**

The centerpiece of SCT is the item format. The quality of any test that utilizes this format will depend on the quality of items written. Users of this method should consult best practice literature for SCT.

Further research is needed to evaluate the thought process that is used in responding to the SCT items. This area of research is lacking validity evidence for examinee scores.

Further research is needed to identify how best to use examinee scores diagnostically.

Current research has not obtained validity evidence for the use of scores to prescribe educational interventions to increase examinee knowledge.

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We wish to acknowledge Dr. Bernard Charlin, developer of the Script Concordance Test methodology, for contributing an Overview of Script Concordance Testing for this resource.

We also wish to acknowledge Drs. Reed Williams, Deb Klamen, and colleagues for contributing a full sample Script Concordance Test of Clinical Data Interpretation items that they have developed and used at their institution.

Comments

No comments available.

Related Materials**Publications (5)**

[Critical Synthesis Package: Leeds Attitude Towards Concordance II Scale \(LATCon II\)](#)

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[Comprehensive Integrative Puzzle \(CIP\)](#)

[Critical Synthesis Package: Health Professional's Attitude Towards the Homeless Inventory \(HPATHI\)](#)

[Critical Synthesis Package: Depression Anxiety Stress Scales \(DASS\)](#)

[Critical Synthesis Package: Effectiveness of Evidence-based Practice Teaching Questionnaire \(EBPTQ\)](#)

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