

## Title: Occupational Case Analysis Interview and Rating Scale

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**Major Finding:** The OCAIRS (Occupational Case Analysis Interview and Rating Scale) is a valid measure of occupational adaptation.

### Participants:

- 6 Raters:
  - 1 core rater and 5 co-raters; all occupational therapists
  - All raters had good knowledge of the theory (Model of Human Occupation) on which the OCAIRS is based and completed one 2 hour training session.
- 145 Participants:
  - 64 males and 81 females; ages 25-56
  - Diagnoses: 63 with affective disorder, 36 with schizophrenic disorder, 17 with neurosis, 10 with personality disorder and 19 were in a mixed group category.

**Method:** One therapist conducted the OCAIRS interview and a second therapist observed the interview. Following the interview, both therapists independently rated the participant. In total, 290 ratings from 145 subjects and 6 raters were analyzed.

**Analysis:** Rasch analysis using Winsteps software.

### Findings:

- 9 of the 10 items together defined the construct of occupational adaptation (met fit requirements). The global system analysis items were removed from the analysis (4 items). The “Physical environment” did not meet fit requirements.
- While all OCAIRS items shared the same five-point rating scale, each item had its own unique rating scale, and raters used each item’s scale in a consistent manner.
- Items that represent occupational identity were less challenging than items which represent occupational competence.
- Raters were interchangeable; only one rater did not use the rating scale in a consistent manner.

**Conclusion:** The OCAIRS is a valid measure of occupational adaptation among individuals with a psychiatric disability.

**Implications for future research:** Further research to improve the psychometric properties of the rating scales may investigate the use of a single general rating format with specific but flexible criteria used as a guideline for assigning ratings.

### Evidence– based practice implications:

- **Intervention should focus on improving a client’s competence for performing occupational tasks, since occupational competence may be more challenging than occupational identity.**
- **With adequate knowledge of theory and minimal training, most therapists can learn to rate the OCAIRS, a theoretically based interview, in an interchangeable and consistent manner.**

