

KENNEDY AXIS V: RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY,
INCLUDING COMPARISONS TO
AXIS V (GAF), HoNOS, AND THE BPRS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Evaluate the interrater reliability and validity of the Kennedy Axis V (K Axis) and, in the process, compare the K Axis to some of psychiatry's top assessment tools.

Methods: The validity was addressed by correlating the K Axis with three of the most commonly used assessment tools in psychiatry: 1) Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF), 2) Health of Nations Outcome Scale (HoNOS), and 3) Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS). In the study these instruments were used to measure the functioning of adult patients with severe mental illness.

Results: Statistical analyses indicated that the K Axis correlations were high where expected between the other three instruments. Like the GAF, the K Axis can generate a specific global score. Like the HoNOS, the K Axis can provide an overview of the patient's clinical profile, as well as focus on specific clinical areas. Like the BPRS, the K Axis is a good measure of psychiatric symptoms. By design the K Axis can generate a GAF, this is not a feature of either the HoNOS or the BPRS. In addition, study of the K Axis' interrater reliability reveal it to be in the very good range.

Conclusions: The K Axis is a reliable instrument whose validity and flexibility are demonstrated when compared to some of the world's top psychiatric assessment tools.