The Basics of Brown EF/A Scales
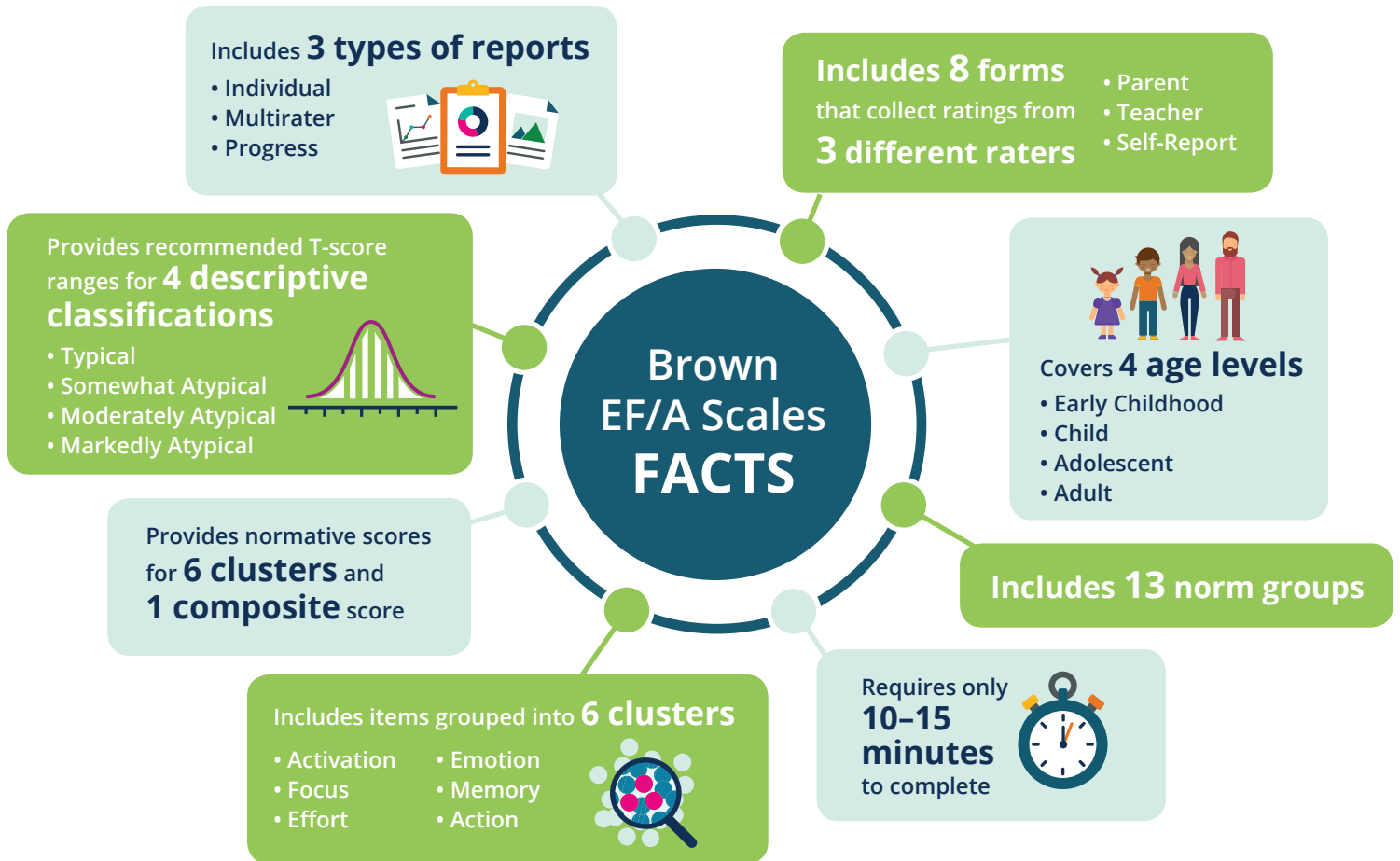
BROWN
EXECUTIVE FUNCTION / ATTENTION
SCALES™

ADHD affects roughly 5% to 7.5% of children and adolescents, and 3% to 5% of adults worldwide.

Brown EF/A Scales is designed to evaluate executive functions related to ADHD in individuals ages *3 years and older.*

Brown EF/A Scales FACTS

Includes 3 types of reports
- Individual
- Multirater
- Progress

Includes 8 forms that collect ratings from **3 different raters**
- Parent
- Teacher
- Self-Report

Provides recommended T-score ranges for 4 descriptive classifications
- Typical
- Somewhat Atypical
- Moderately Atypical
- Markedly Atypical

Covers 4 age levels
- Early Childhood
- Child
- Adolescent
- Adult

Provides normative scores for 6 clusters and 1 composite score

Includes 13 norm groups

Includes items grouped into 6 clusters
- Activation
- Focus
- Effort
- Emotion
- Memory
- Action

Requires only 10–15 minutes to complete

Standardization:

- **270 examiners and 30 sites across 45 states** participated in the standardization
- Based on a national sample of **1,950 Parent, Teacher, and Self-Report Forms** collected from the general population
- Reliability and validity was further established by a **clinical sample of 359 individuals** who were diagnosed with ADHD

Reliability & Validity:

- Internal consistency coefficients ranged from **.74 to .98** for the standardization sample and **.70 to .97** for the clinical sample
- 1- to 4-week test-retest reliability coefficients ranged from **.71 to .95**
- Inter-rater reliability coefficients ranged from **.32 to .72**
- **Correlated with other measures**
  - BASC-3
  - BRIEF2

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Brown EF/A Scales™! This resource provides additional detail about some of the exciting changes you can expect in the new assessment.

Administration and scoring

What are my options for administration, scoring and reporting?

Brown EF/A is available on Q-global® with flexible administration, scoring, and reporting options to accommodate your assessment workflow. Choose from our digital platform, paper and pencil, or a combination of both!

What are some of the key benefits of digital administration, scoring, and reporting on Q-global?

- The Examiner can enter the Examinee (Client/ Student) data (Name, age, gender, etc.) directly. In a screening situation or school setting, the Examiner can upload multiple examinees using a template spreadsheet.

- Using Q-global improves the ease of scoring by removing the need to hand score, and is flexible enough to accommodate the manual entry of paper administered forms.

- Digital Administration can be used to replace paper-and-pencil administration and scoring, and provides reporting immediately after administration. Digital administration also ensures that responses are not invalidated due to skipped or missing items, since in order to submit a completed form, a respondent must endorse each and every item.

- Q-global facilitates one of the main strengths of Brown EF/A scales — the availability of forms for multiple raters. Forms can be sent via email to parents and/or teachers for completion. For adult clients, the self-report form or rating forms can be administered on the examinee's computer or mobile device.

- Q-global can generate reports which include results from a single rater or multiple raters. Reports with multiple raters allow for comparisons

between raters and the environments that they are in. For example, in the case of a student examinee, teacher and parent comparison in a report could highlight which attentional problems may be more prominent at school versus which may be more of an issue at home.

- Since the Brown EF/A can be used as a screener in a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, it is often administered in tandem with the BASC™-3, a more extensive global rating scale of behavior. If both are used, the results from both are accessible through the examinee's record on Q-global. As a clinician, this flexibility allows you to have results from multiple assessments in the same application.

- Using Q-global for the administration, scoring, and reporting also facilitates one of the main applications of the Brown EF/A scales, progress monitoring. Using Q-global, multiple administrations over time can be completed and compared in Q-global reports so the reports can be used to monitor the examinee's progress and impact of treatments, interventions, and supports.

Assessment content

Is the Brown EF/A aligned with the *DSM-5*?

Content is aligned with *DSM-5* diagnostic criteria for ADHD as well as other executive functions related to attention, but not included in the *DSM-5*

How does the Brown EF/A address situational variability?

Patients with ADHD experience much situational variability with ability to focus on specific activities which hold strong interest for them, but more limited ability to focus on less interesting tasks, even when they may be important. The Brown EF/A scales include items that ask about difficulties encountered in specific

contexts (e.g., difficulty remembering what has been read when reading is assigned vs. self-selected texts).

Further, unlike other instruments, items on the Brown EF/A Scales focus on severity of specific problems rather than frequency. This allows examinees to report more accurately how much difficulty they experience with each specific symptom.

Does Dr. Brown's cluster model — Activation, Focus, Effort, Emotion, Memory, Action — apply to all age levels?

The sixth cluster (Action) in the executive functions model has been added to the Adolescent (ages 13–18 years) and Adult (ages 19+) forms, making it possible to evaluate impairments associated with hyperactive/impulsive symptoms of ADHD across all forms and age levels.

Norms and clinical studies

How were the Brown EF/A Scales normed?

Normative information for the Brown EF/A Scales is based on a national sample of 1,950 Parent, Teacher, and Self-Report forms. A stratified sampling plan ensured that the normative sample was representative of the US English-speaking population of individuals ages 3–adult. Stratification was done along the following variables within each age group: sex, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status (as indicated by parent education level for ages 3–24 years or personal education level for ages 25+), and geographic region.

- To help establish reliability and validity, a clinical sample of 359 individuals diagnosed with ADHD (*DSM-5)* was also collected.

- Both gender-specific and combined-gender norms are available for all age groups.

Is the Brown EF/A Scales correlated with any other measures?

The Brown EF/A Scales is correlated with BASC-3, BRIEF®2, and Conners-3®

- Brown EF/A Scales Parent, Teacher, and Self-Report Forms are correlated with the BASC–3 Parent Rating Scales (PRS), Teacher Rating Scales (TRS), and Self-Report of Personality (SRP) forms, respectively.

Applications

Can the Brown EF/A Scales be used as a screening tool?

The Brown EF/A Scales can be used as a screening tool:

- As a preliminary process for identifying executive function strengths and areas of need

- To provide data to support observations and anecdotal information

- That offers insight into individuals who may be struggling without any outward expression

- As a first step in facilitating instruction, support, and interventions at the appropriate level

Can the Brown EF/A Scales be used as a progress monitoring tool?

The Brown EF/A Scales can be used in repeated administrations to assess changes in symptoms of ADHD over time.

- Comparing assessments can assist in determining whether or not treatment has been effective and, if so, the areas of functioning that benefited the most from treatment.

- The information obtained from repeated administrations can also be useful in adjusting medication doses and in suggesting when additional assessments or treatments may be necessary for nonresponsive ADHD symptoms.

Can the Brown EF/A Scales be used in research?

- Studies evaluating ADHD can use the Brown EF/A Scales to identify specific profiles of executive function deficits. Item-level analysis can reveal even more specific types of executive functions deficits that can be further evaluated with standardized cognitive measures.

- In medication treatment or cognitive intervention studies, the Brown EF/A Scales can be used to evaluate patients for executive functions that are likely to respond to those interventions.

Visit **PearsonAssessments.com/BrownEFAScales** or call **800.627.7271** to speak with an assessment consultant.

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