AUTISM TREATMENT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

The Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC) was developed by Bernard Rimland and Stephen M. Edelson of the Autism Research Institute to provide an easy-to-administer, sensitive-to-change, and valid monitoring tool specific to autism spectrum disorders (Autism Research Institute 2016). It has been in use as an objective measure of autism severity since 1999 and is available on the Internet with results e-mailed to a specified address.

The ATEC is divided into four categories or subscales, and together, these produce a total score. The subscales are:

• Speech, language, and communication
• Sociability
• Sensory and cognitive awareness
• Health, physical, and behavior

For all scores, the higher the value, the more severe the autism. The highest total score possible is 179. A total score over 104 is considered to be severely autistic, and a total score of 30 or less is considered to be mildly autistic.

Validity of the ATEC is considered to be high, and its results consistently match subjective reports and the results of objective measures to evaluate specific characteristics. Several studies (Jarusiewicz 2002; Coben and Padolsky 2007; Magiati, Moss, Yates, et al. 2010; Geier, Kern, and Geier 2013) provide valuable information for assessing the accuracy of data obtained with the ATEC. In brief, though not without issues (Kanne et al. 2014), the ATEC seems to provide what its developers intended, an easy-to-administer, sensitive-to-change, and valid monitoring tool specific to autism spectrum disorders and covering its core symptoms.

REFERENCES


