The Columbia Lighthouse Project/Center for Suicide Risk Assessment

The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)

Supporting Evidence

Last Revised
8-25-2017

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The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS): Psychometric Evidence

Table 1: Studies Supporting Specific Psychometric Properties

Psychometric Property		Studies
Clinical Utility	**Predictive and/or Incremental Validity**	Brent et al., 2009^; Posner et al., 2011*^; Mundt et al., 2013*; Arias et al. 2013*; Greist et al. 2014*; Gipson et al., 2015^; Horwitz et al., 2015*; Brown et al., 2015*; Arias et al., 2016*; Conway et al. 2016^; Madan et al. 2016*
	Sensitivity to Change	Posner et al., 2011*; Ionescu et al., 2016*
	Sensitivity and Specificity	Posner et al., 2011*; Mundt et al., 2013*; Viguera et al. 2015*; Madan et al. 2016*
	Positive and Negative Predictive Value (PPV & NPV)	Mundt et al 2013*; Viguera et al 2015*
Reliability (internal consistency)		Posner et al., 2011*^; Gunes et al. 2015^; Pai et al. 2015*; Madan et al. 2016*
Reliability (inter-rater; multi-method agreement)		Kerr et al., 20136; Brent et al., 2009^; Hesdorffer et al., 2013*; Arias et al., 2013*; Brown et al. 2015*; Gunes et al. 2015^
Internal Structure (Factor Analysis)		Al-Halabi et al ., 2016b*; Madan et al. 2016*
Convergent Validity & Accuracy		Posner et al., 2011*; Kerr et al., 2013^; Gunes et al. 2015^; Pai et al. 2015*; Youngstrom et al. 2015*; Brown et al ., 2015*; Madan et al.2016*
Divergent & Discriminant Validity		Posner et al., 2011*; Kerr et al., 2013^; Gunes et al. 2015
Cross-Cultural Validation		Danish (Conway et al. 2016^); Korean (Pai et al. 2015*); Turkish (Gunes et al. 2015*); Spanish (Al-Halabi et al ., 2016ab*)

***** studies include adult samples; **^** studies include pediatric samples

Table 2: Psychometric Properties of Specific C-SSRS Predictors with Coefficients

Predictive Validity - Suicidal Ideation			
	Predictor	**Criterion**	**Coefficients**
Greist et al. 2014	*None Reported*	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	All patients: 0.8% incidence rate, N=4975 Psychiatric patients: 1.1% incidence rate, N=3184
	Wish to Be Dead	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR= 6.21, 95% CI = 4.18 – 9.23, p <0.001 OR= 4.99, 95% CI = 3.29 – 7.56, p <0.001
	Non-Specific Active Thoughts	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR= 6.69, 95% CI = 4.16 – 10.76, p <0.001 OR= 5.53, 95% CI = 3.38-9.04, p <0.001
	Active with any methods (not plan) w/o intent to act	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR= 11.16, 95% CI = 7.43-16.76, p <0.001 OR= 8.36, 95% CI = 5.44-12.84, p <0.001
	Active with Some Intent to Act, without specific plan	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR= 19.27, 95% CI = 12.97 – 28.63, p <0.001 OR= 15.24, 95% CI = 10.07-23.09, p <0.001
	Active with specific plan and intent	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR= 25.53, 95% CI = 16.94 – 38.47, p <0.001 OR= 18.70, 95% CI = 12.16 – 28.76, p <0.001
Posner et al. 2011	*Baseline worst-point*	Attempts	OR=1.45, 95% CI=1.07-1.98, p=0.02
		Actual, interrupted and aborted attempts	OR=1.34, 95% CI=1.05-1.70, p=0.02
	Lifetime severity	Attempts	OR=1.43, 95% CI=0.99-2.05, p=0.05
	Severity 4-5 (any intent to act)	Attempts	OR=3.26, 95% CI=1.02-10.45, p=0.047
		Actual, interrupted and aborted attempts	OR= 3.26, 95% CI=1.07-7.12, p=0.036
Horwitz et al. 2015	*Ideation severity 1 to 5*	Attempt	OR= 1.51, 95% CI= 1.24-1.84, p<0.001

Arias et al. 2016	*Current ideation severity 4 or 5 (with intent to die)*	Actual attempt or suicide 6 weeks post-ED visit	OR=1.70 95% CI 1.18-2.44, p =.004
		Actual, interrupted, aborted attempts, suicide or preparatory behavior	OR =1.52 95%CI 1.23-1.86 p <. 001
Madan et al. 2016: N=1,055 adult psych in-patients	*Most severe ideation within 72 hours of hospitalization*	Any suicide behavior within 6 months post hospitalization	*r* =.165, p<.01, N=275
		Psychiatric hospitalization within 6 month post initial hospitalization	*r* =.125, p <.05, N=275

Predictive Validity - Suicidal Behavior

	Predictor	Criterion	Coefficients
Greist et al. 2014	*Attempt*	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR=4.57, 95% CI = 3.6-5.7, p<0.001
	Interrupted Attempt	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR=5.55, 95% CI = 4.4-7.0, p<0.001
	Aborted Attempt	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR=5.09, 95% CI = 4.1-6.4, p<0.001
	Preparatory behavior	Actual, interrupted or aborted attempts	OR=5.69, 95% CI = 4.3-7.5, p<0.001
Horwitz et al. 2015	*Attempt*	Attempt	OR=4.80, 95% CI = 2.23-10.32, p<0.001
	NSSIB item	Attempt	OR=3.12, 95% CI = 1.36-7.19, p<0.01
Gipson et al. 2014	*NSSIB item*	Return ER visit	OR = 1.52; 95% CI, 1.08-2.12, p<.05
		Attempt	X^2 = 4.131, df = 1, p = 0.04

See also: Conway et al 2016.

Incremental Validity and Accuracy	
Brent et al., (2009): Treatment resistant, depressed adolescent suicide attempters (N=334, ages 12-18)	• Higher rates of suicidal (20.8% vs. 8.8%, chi squared= 9.18, df=1, p<0.002) and non-suicidal self-injury (17.6% vs. 2.2%, chi squared= 23.47, df=1, p<0.001) detected with systematic monitoring
Brown et al. (2015): psychiatric ER patients (N=250)	• 18% (n=23) of patients with a suicide attempt in the past week misclassified or missed by clinical assessment. • Agreement with clinical assessment for suicide attempts (K=0.76, p=<.001) • Agreement with clinical assessment of non-suicidal self-injurious behavior (K=0.72, p=<.001)
Horwitz et al. (2014): Young adult psychiatric emergency patients (N=473)	• Suicidal ideation added incremental validity to the prediction of future suicide attempts beyond the past suicide attempt, X^2 (1) = 7.54, p= .006
Arias et al. (2013): 497 ER adult patients with suicidal thoughts or attempt(s)	• 41% increase in the detection of suicide attempts compared to chart reviews (59% vs. 18%, difference of 41%, 95% CI= 28-55, p<0.001)

See also: Conway et al 2016.

Reliability - Suicidal Ideation (inter-rater and multi-method agreement)		
Study	**Ideation Type**	**Coefficients**
Brent et al. (2009)	*suicidal ideation ranging from 0 to 5 (from no ideation to suicidal ideation with intent and a clear plan) monitored weekly*	ICC = .09, p< 0.001

Youngstrom et al. (2015)	*Accuracy calibrated against "missing gold standard" latent class-derived ideation and behavior categories*	κ > 0.7
Gunes et al. (2015)	*Inter-rater reliability for the most severe ideation scores in the last month and lifetime were good*	Lifetime κ = 0.91 Recent κ = 0.76
Hesdorffer et al. (2013)	*Agreement between the MINI, C-SSRS and eC-SSRS for lifetime suicidal ideation*	κ = 0.80, 95% CI = 0.72-0.89
Reliability - Suicidal Behavior		
Brown et al. (2015)	*Agreement with clinical assessment for attempts*	κ= 0.76, P < .001
	Agreement with clinical assessment for non-suicidal self-injurious behavior	κ = 0.72, P < .001
Youngstrom et al. (2015)	*Accuracy of attempt: calibrated against latent class-derived categories*	κ > 0.8
Brent et al. (2009)	*Inter-rater reliability for a rating of suicidal behavior, ranging from 0 to 5 (no behavior to multiple attempts during the assessment period) using the Columbia Classification Algorithm of Suicide Assessment*	100% agreement
Kerr et al. (2013)	*Inter-rater agreement for distinction among actual, aborted, interrupted attempts, preparatory acts and any other act*	κ = 0.88
Hesdorffer et al. (2013)	*Agreement between the MINI, C-SSRS and eC-SSRS for lifetime suicidal behavior*	κ = 0.67, 95% CI = 0.53-0.80

The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS): Impact in Public Health and Diagnostic and Treatment-Monitoring Effectiveness

Table 3: C-SSRS as Intervention and Measure of Diagnosis and Treatment

Decrease in Suicide Rate: C-SSRS as Intervention	**Out-Patient Mental Health** Esposito, 2015	• Centerstone - the largest provider of community-based outpatient mental health care in the U.S. • The C-SSRS administered to every client at every service delivery point as part of a comprehensive Zero Suicide prevention program. • In the first 20 months post-implementation, the Tennessee facilities saw a **nearly 65 % reduction in the suicide rate**, from 3.1 to 1.1 per 10,000 clients.
	Active Duty: US Marines Seck, 2015	• Following training of all support staff in the C-SSRS at 16 USMC installations and implementation of mandatory C-SSRS screening by the non-healthcare personnel, including legal services, suicides in the USMC **dropped by 22%,** from 45 in 2013 to 34 in 2014.
	States: Utah US: UT Dept. of Human Services, 2015	• **For the first time** reversed the rising suicide trend since implementing the C-SSRS as part of the comprehensive Zero Suicide program in 2015.
	Active Duty: US Army Adam Walsh, CIV DODHRA DSPO (US), (2015, personal communication)	• At the end of 2-4 months of treatment for PTSD in active duty soldiers (N=1206), those with greater improvement in PTSD had **fewer suicidal ideation** symptoms on the C-SSRS.

Table 3: *(Continued)*

C-SSRS as an Effective Measure for Diagnosis & Treatment	**Veterans** Legarreta et al., 2015	• The association of specific PTSD symptoms with suicidal ideation and behavior suggested individual PTSD symptoms as treatment target for reducing suicidal outcomes.
	Veterans Harvey et al. (2014) (suicide analyses in preparation)	• Preliminary analyses show higher prevalence of suicidal ideation and behavior among the Vets with Bipolar Disorder than Schizophrenia. • Different patterns of association with medical, psychiatric disorders and demographic characteristics between BP and SZ groups
	Medication Treatment Ionescu et al. (2016)	• Ketamine treatment effective for suicidal ideation (SI) in **adults** • SI severity improved <u>independent</u> of acute decrease in depression and SI intensity improved <u>even if SI severity un-remitted</u>
	Prakash et al. (2012)	• Duloxetine was effective in treating suicidal ideation among **children ages 7-17** with major depression • Distinguished children with improvement and deterioration

References for Psychometric Evidence and Clinical Outcomes

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REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS FOR C-SSRS USE:

DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL POPULATIONS, SETTINGS, TREATMENT EFFICACY AND

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Pediatric Populations by Age Group

Ages 5-11

Glennon, J., Purper-Ouakil, D., Bakker, M., Zuddas, A., Hoekstra, P., Schulze, U., ... & Coghill, D. (2014). Paediatric European Risperidone Studies (PERS): context, rationale, objectives, strategy, and challenges. *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, *23*(12), 1149-1160. [also includes 12-17.5 age group]

Ages 6-12

Buchanan, J., Burke, T., Camacho, K., Yershova, K., Lazzaretto, D., Posner, K. (2013) Preschool Bullying and Victimization as Predictors of Suicidal Ideation in School Age: 6-year Follow-Up of the Preschool Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Treatment Study (PATS). *1st Annual Meeting of the International Academy for Suicide Research*, Montreal, Canada.

Ages 7-13

Weinstein, S. M., Henry, D. B., Katz, A. C., Peters, A. T., & West, A. E. (2015). Treatment moderators of child-and family-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy for pediatric bipolar disorder. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, *54*(2), 116-125.

Ages 6-17

Glennon, J., Purper-Ouakil, D., Bakker, M., Zuddas, A., Hoekstra, P., Schulze, U., ... & PERS Consortium. (2014). Paediatric European Risperidone Studies (PERS): context, rationale, objectives, strategy, and challenges. *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, *23*(12), 1149-1160.

Ages 7-17

Strawn, J. R., Prakash, A., Zhang, Q., Pangallo, B. A., Stroud, C. E., Cai, N., & Findling, R. L. (2015). A randomized, placebo-controlled study of duloxetine for the treatment of children and adolescents with generalized anxiety disorder. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, *54*(4), 283-293.

Emslie, G. J., Prakash, A., Zhang, Q., Pangallo, B. A., Bangs, M. E., & March, J. S. (2014). A double-blind efficacy and safety study of duloxetine fixed doses in children and adolescents with major depressive disorder. *Journal of child and adolescent psychopharmacology*, *24*(4), 170-179.

Ages 6-18

Wigal, S. B., Nordbrock, E., Adjei, A. L., Childress, A., Kupper, R. J., & Greenhill, L. (2015). Efficacy of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride Extended-Release Capsules (Aptensio XR™) in Children and Adolescents with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind Study.*CNS drugs*, *29*(4), 331-340.

Ages 7-17

Prakash, A., Lobo, E., Kratochvil, C. J., Tamura, R. N., Pangallo, B. A., Bullok, K. E., ... & March, J. S. (2012). An open-label safety and pharmacokinetics study of duloxetine in pediatric patients with major depression. *Journal of child and adolescent psychopharmacology*, *22*(1), 48-55.

Ages 10-18

Scott, M., Underwood, M., & Lamis, D. A. (2015). Suicide and Related-Behavior Among Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, *32*(6), 517-527.

Ages 11-17

Goodyer, I. M., Tsancheva, S., Byford, S., Dubicka, B., Hill, J., Kelvin, R., ... & Wilkinson, P. (2011). Improving mood with psychoanalytic and cognitive therapies (IMPACT): a pragmatic effectiveness superiority trial to investigate whether specialised psychological treatment reduces the risk for relapse in adolescents with moderate to severe unipolar depression: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial. *Trials*, *12*(1), 175.

Ages 12-17

Findling, R. L., Cutler, A. J., Saylor, K., Gasior, M., Hamdani, M., Ferreira-Cornwell, M. C., & Childress, A. C. (2013). A long-term open-label safety and effectiveness trial of lisdexamfetamine dimesylate in adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. *Journal of child and adolescent psychopharmacology*, *23*(1), 11-21.

Findling, R.L., A. Robb, and A. Bose, *Escitalopram in the treatment of adolescent depression: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled extension trial.* J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol, 2013. **23**(7): p. 468-80.

Ages 7-18 (for pediatric sub-sample; paper also included studies with adults)

Gibbons, R. D., Brown, C. H., Hur, K., Davis, J. M., & Mann, J. J. (2012). Suicidal thoughts and behavior with antidepressant treatment: reanalysis of the randomized placebo-controlled studies of fluoxetine and venlafaxine. *Archives of general psychiatry*, *69*(6), 580-587.

Ages 12-17.5

Glennon, J., Purper-Ouakil, D., Bakker, M., Zuddas, A., Hoekstra, P., Schulze, U., ... & Coghill, D. (2014). Paediatric European Risperidone Studies (PERS): context, rationale, objectives, strategy, and challenges. *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, *23*(12), 1149-1160.

Ages 12-18

Posner, K., Brown, G. K., Stanley, B., Brent, D. A., Yershova, K. V., Oquendo, M. A., ... & Mann, J. J. (2011). The Columbia–Suicide Severity Rating Scale: initial validity and internal consistency findings from three multisite studies with adolescents and adults. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, *168*(12), 1266-1277.

Ages 12-18

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Ages 12-17

Emslie, G. J., Ventura, D., Korotzer, A., & Tourkodimitris, S. (2009). Escitalopram in the treatment of adolescent depression: a randomized placebo-controlled multisite trial. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, *48*(7), 721-729.

Ages 13-17

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Ages 14-18

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Ages 14-19

Kaplow, J. B., Gipson, P. Y., Horwitz, A. G., Burch, B. N., & King, C. A. (2014). Emotional suppression mediates the relation between adverse life events and adolescent suicide: Implications for prevention. *Prevention Science*, *15*(2), 177-185.

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Ages 15-20

Gray, K. M., Carpenter, M. J., Lewis, A. L., Klintworth, E. M., & Upadhyaya, H. P. (2012). Varenicline versus bupropion XL for smoking cessation in older adolescents: A randomized, double-blind pilot trial. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, *14*(2), 234-239.

Ages 15-24

Horwitz, A. G., Czyz, E. K., & King, C. A. (2015). Predicting future suicide attempts among adolescent and emerging adult psychiatric emergency patients. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 44:5, 751-761.

Young Adults

Ages 15-24

Horwitz, A. G., Czyz, E. K., & King, C. A. (2015). Predicting future suicide attempts among adolescent and emerging adult psychiatric emergency patients. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 44:5, 751-761.

Ages 20-22

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Medical Specialties

Neurology

Hesdorffer, D. C., French, J. A., Posner, K., DiVentura, B., Pollard, J. R., Sperling, M. R., & Kanner, A. M. (2013). "Suicidal ideation and behavior screening in intractable focal **epilepsy** eligible for drug trials." *Epilepsia*, 1-9.

Pereira, A., Gitlin, M. J., Gross, R. A., Posner, K., & Dworkin, R. H. (2013). "Suicidality associated with antiepileptic drugs: Implications for the treatment of **neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia**." *PAIN®*, 154(3), 345-349.

Skljarevski, V., Zhang, S., Desaiah, D., Alaka, K. J., Palacios, S., Miazgowski, T., & Patrick, K. (2010). Duloxetine versus placebo in patients with **chronic low back pain**: a 12-week, fixed-dose, randomized, double-blind trial. *The Journal of Pain*, *11*(12), 1282-1290.

Oncology

Lucas, M. S., Brawner, B. M., Hardie, T. L., Beacham, B., Paidipati, C., Diaz, M., ... & Deatrick, J. A. (2015, September). Assessing Suicidal Ideation and Behaviors Among Survivors of Childhood Brain Tumors and Their Mothers During Sociobehavioral Research. In *Oncology nursing forum* (Vol. 42, No. 5, pp. E319-29).

Psychiatric Conditions

Alzheimer's

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Cross-Cultural Settings

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