UCLA PTSD Reaction Index 5

Author(s): Pynoos, Rodriguez, Steinberg, Stuber, and Frederick (1998)[1]

Population/Age Group: Child (ages 7 older) and parent-report of child symptoms

Purpose: The UCLA PTSD RI measures exposure to and symptoms of trauma in school-age children and adolescents.

Description: The UCLA PTSD RI is a self-report form keyed to DSM PTSD symptoms for youth who report traumatic stress experiences. A parent report form also exists. The UCLA PTSD RI can be used as either a self-report or clinician-administered instrument.
Symptoms assessed are tied to DSM criteria for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These items map directly onto the DSM PTSD criterion. Frequency of occurrence of PTSD symptoms during the past month is rated. A calendar is used to help children understand how to anchor their ratings.
A 5-point scale from 0 (none of the time) to 4 (most all the time) is used to rate PTSD symptoms. A score of 2 or higher on each question is considered as the symptom cutoff score (using endorsements of "much of the time" and "most of the time" as indicating symptom presence).

Scoring and Interpretation: The score sheet provides instructions for calculating a total PTSD severity score, and severity subscale scores for each of the DSM symptom clusters. When criterion A is met, children who meet criteria for each of the symptom clusters are scored as having a likely diagnosis of "full" PTSD. Where criterion A is met, children meeting criteria for only some symptom subcategories are scored as "partial" PTSD likely.
An overall PTSD severity score is calculated by summing the scores for each question that corresponds to a DSM symptom and PTSD severity subscores are calculated for each of the symptom clusters.
Total scores range from 0-155. The recommended cutoff score is 31 indicating a possible diagnosis of PTSD.

Psychometric Properties: This measure has good internal consistency and test-retest reliability data. The high internal consistency of the RI total score provided evidence that this scale measures a single construct – DSM IV PTSD symptoms. Moderate to high internal consistencies of Intrusion, Avoidance, and Hyperarousal subscales were also provided as evidence that the subscales measure underlying constructs corresponding to PTSD symptom clusters. No psychometric data is available on the DSM 5 version.

Training Requirements: Prior experience in psychological testing and administration

To Obtain: The University of California requires a licensing agreement for the use of the scale. Contact HFinley@mednet.ucla.edu

Pynoos, R., Rodriguez, N., Steinberg, A., Stuber, M., & Frederick, C. (1998). *UCLA PTSD Index for DSM-IV.*