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Functional Cognitive Assessments: A Systematic Review

Functional cognition is the observable integration of processing skills and cognition in order to complete everyday activities. Functional cognitive assessment tools have been used to assess client functionality and level of independence in real world settings. Effective evaluation of client functional cognition is essential in order for therapists and healthcare professionals to understand client performance of ADL's and IADL's in the context of their everyday lives. Adequate research was lacking in regards to the psychometric and descriptive properties for many of the functional cognitive assessment tools that have been used to this day. We conducted a systematic review of 12 functional cognitive assessments with the goals of: (1) comparing variables between selected functional cognitive assessment tools, (2) determining strengths and weaknesses of these functional cognitive assessment tools, (3) and making recommendations on instruments that are currently used in the field today. Our findings have contributed to the body of knowledge on the current state of functional cognitive assessment tools and identified any gaps that need to be addressed in development of future assessments.