

**This assessment review was compiled by our students and is intended to be used as a guide in assisting clinicians. We encourage you to review the evaluations and assessments for yourself to guarantee the most accurate and updated information.*

I. General Information

Title of the test: Brief Test of Head Injury - BTHI

Author: Nancy Helm-Estabrooks & Gillian Hotz

Publisher: Pro-Ed An International Publisher. Austin, Texas

Time required to administer: Varies from approximately 25 to 30 min – however, can be administered over several shorter sessions

Cost of the Test: \$322.00 for entire test: Includes examiner's manual, stimulus card set, manipulatives set, 25 record forms, carrying case.

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The BTHI assess the cognitive-communicative component of these with traumatic brain injuries. It is designed to quickly identify and measure the following areas:

- Orientation/Attention
- Following Commands
- Linguistic Organization
- Reading Comprehension
- Naming
- Memory
- Visual-Spatial Skills

Population: This assessment test was designed for acute and long-term head injured patients, including those who remain intubated.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: This test is a standardized test that comes with written instructions of each component to be tested. Though most materials are provided in the testing kit, there are additional items and preparation necessary before administration. Administration becomes easier with gained experience.

Clarity of Directions: The instructions are very clearly written out for the administrator. Specific verbal prompts are given and specific criteria for scoring is also given. The Normed Manual also gives information regarding the interpretation and implications of the findings of the BTHI.

Scoring Procedures: The scoring of the BTHI is based on normative scoring in 3 different criteria: Response Modality, Communicative Quality, and Preservation, each of which have written scoring criteria for the administrators. The Raw score is found by counting each items that received full-credit, or rather, those were fully communicative linguistic responses. This score then yields severity, percentile, and standard scores.

Examiner Qualification & Training: “The BTHI is best administered by a certified speech-language pathologist, a neuropsychologist, or other specialists trained to assess head-injured patients” (Estabrooks & Hotz, 1991)

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other

Reliability: Test-retest Internal consistency Cronbach’s alpha Inter-rater

Validity: Content Construct Criterion

Manual: Excellent

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment?

- Clinical Settings
- Home environments
- Note: The test does not have to be given all at once, or even in the same settings. But environment should be cleared to minimize distractions.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths:

- Excellent for measuring cognitive-communicative aspects of those with TBI
- Directions and evaluation procedures very clear
- Well organized

Weaknesses:

- Scoring can be subjective
- Does not take into consideration visual concerns/deficits