

**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: LOTCA Lowenstein Occupational Therapy Cognitive Assessment

Author: Itzkovich, M., Elazar, B., & Averbuch, S.

Publisher: Western Psychological Services

Time required to administer: between 30 to 45 minutes to administer the test, however it can be divided into 2 or 3 sessions if the client's attention span is too short or if they become fatigued.

Cost of the Test: \$265 for each kit

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The LOTCA is an assessment used to evaluate the basic cognitive abilities in brain injured and other cognitively impaired clients. Basic cognitive functions are thought to be prerequisite for managing every day encounters with the environment.

Population: Originally developed for those with brain injury (TBI, stroke, brain tumors) the second version has been expanded to include those with (spinal cord injury, degenerative & psychiatric diseases, & underachieving students).

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: The LOTCA is easy to administer. The Manual provides sample wording for each of the questions and the test booklet provides the pictures needed to complete the test. All of the necessary materials are included in the LOTCA box.

Clarity of Directions: The directions are very clear and easy to follow. These directions are step- by-step and written with instructions for what the examiner (E) should be doing and what the client (C) should be doing.

Scoring Procedures: All of the tests are scored on a scale from 1 (low) to 4 (high), except for three categorization tests, which are scored on a scale from 1 to 5 and the two orientation sub-tests on a scale from 1 to 8. At the end of each subtest E should ask C if the task is completed, and only then should it be scored. Minimal performance: 1 point is given if no correct answer or one correct answer is given, maximal performance: 4 points are given if C answered all questions correctly without the need for multiple choice questions. The score for each subtest is recorded on the score sheet, as well as time required to take the test and comments.

Examiner Qualification & Training: This assessment is designed to be administered by an Occupational Therapist. It is important to carefully read the entire description of the tests and the correct procedures for administration before using the LOTCA. It is also important to have an understanding of the population you are administering the test to.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other _____

Reliability:

- Inter-rater reliability was determined prior to data collection
- Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found to be .87 for the perception component of the assessment, .95 for the visuomotor organization component and a .85 for the thinking operations components.

Validity: High correlations of .68-.78 between the LOTCA and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale. All sub-tests except for identification of objects differentiated at the level of significance between controls and each of the client groups $p < .0001$

Manual: Excellent Adequate Poor

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

This assessment should be used with clients before they enter rehabilitation at the hospital. It offers a first look at the candidate for rehabilitation and sets the base line for a basic cognitive therapy at the level of OT.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths:

- Very applicable to OT
- Sets a baseline level of cognition for rehabilitation
- Tests a variety of areas in the different subtests
- Kit comes complete with all needed pieces
- Portable
- Has tips for use with aphasiac clients
- Provides clear step by step directions
- Strong reliability and validity
- This version (second edition) has been expanded to encompass more populations

Weaknesses:

- Expensive to buy a kit that contains everyday items
- Has not been tested with a variety of patients