

**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: Arthritis Hand Function Test (AHFT)

Author: Catherine Backamn, MS, OT; Hazel Mackie, DipOT, OT; Jackie Harris, DipOT, OT

Publisher: School of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of British Columbia. Wesbrook Mall, BC, Canada

Time required to administer: Approximately 20 minutes

Cost of the Test: The total cost of the test materials is variable depending on what items the therapist has available. The test manual must be ordered for \$25.00. Some of the items are common to an OT clinic (such as a dynamometer) and others are common items that can be purchased for very little money (such as safety pins).

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The AHFT is a performance based assessment that is designed to measure hand strength and dexterity. There are 11 items total, which include: grip and pinch strength, pegboard dexterity, lacing a shoe and tying a bow, fastening/unfastening 4 buttons, fastening/unfastening 2 safety pins, manipulating coins into a slot, lifting a tray of tin cans, cutting putty with a knife and fork, and pouring a glass of water.

Population: The AHFT was developed for adults with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and systemic sclerosis.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: The test is not at all difficult to administer. Items are administered in the order in which they appear on the worksheet in the manual.

Clarity of Directions: Very clear and simple to understand.

Scoring Procedures: Scores for each of the 11 items are recorded on the worksheet. The scores have the following ranges: grip strength 0-300 mm Hg, pinch strength 0-30 kg, applied strength for cans 0-12 cans, applied strength for pouring water 0-2000 ml, dexterity items 0-undetermined number of seconds. The scores can then be transferred to the Hand Function Profile sheet matched for both age and sex. The profile offers a summary and comparison of the scores to the norms.

Examiner Qualification & Training: No specific qualifications or training is required. This test can be administered by any number of healthcare professionals including occupational and physical therapists.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other _____

Reliability: Interrater and test-retest reliability statistics are provided. The statistics vary depending on the condition.
Interrater: RA - .89 to 1.0; OA - .99 to 1.0; SSc - .99 to 1.0

Test-retest: RA - .53 to .96; OA - .74 to .96; SSC - .80 to .97

Validity: In order to establish concurrent validity, the AHFT was compared to both the Jebsen Hand Function Test and the Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale. The correlation between the AHFT and the JHFT was .63 for the right hand and .08 for the left hand. Between the AHFT and the AIMS, there was a .71 correlation with the dexterity scale, but very little relationship in the other areas.

Manual: Excellent Adequate Poor

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

The settings in which this assessment could be used include hand clinics, SNFs, home health, and outpatient clinics.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses

Weakness: No current research regarding this assessment.

Strength: Easy to administer, score, and interpret, can be administered pre and post treatment to show improvement in hand strength and dexterity.