

**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, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Time required to administer: Authors indicate approximately 20 minutes.

Cost of the Test: Manual costs \$25.00 US but then there are more items that must be independently purchased: adapted sphygmomanometer, pinch meter, 9 hole pegboard, lacing shoes, buttons on a board, safety pins, putty, knife, fork, 4 coins, tray of cans, jug and glass.

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The AHFT was designed for adults who have rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. It was developed around 1991 in British Columbia. It has 11 items designed to assess hand strength and dexterity. It has four sections: strength, dexterity, applied dexterity, and applied strength. In some parts of the test right and left hand are tested separately. The test is easy to administer and test scores are recorded on a scaled worksheet that is very simple to fill out as well.

Population: The AHFT was designed for adults who have rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: The AHFT is easy to administer and very self-explanatory.

Clarity of Directions: No manual was available but the test was simple to figure out just by looking at the AHFT Score Worksheet and the items in the box. The only area of confusion was the "applied strength" section but after further research, this section was easily explained.

Scoring Procedures: Fill out information on AHFT Score Worksheet-very easy to follow and self-explanatory.

Examiner Qualification & Training: Development and initial studies were carried out by occupational therapists but could be used by other health care providers such as a physical therapist.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other

Reliability: Inter-rater reliability ranged from .89 to 1.0 which indicates very strong inter-rater reliability. Test-retest reliability ranged from .531 to .955.

Validity: The AHFT was compared to the Jebsen Hand Function Test (JHFT) and the Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale (AIMS) questionnaire to establish concurrent validity. The AHFT correlated to the JHFT by .63 for the right hand and .08 for the left hand. There was a .71 correlation with the dexterity scale compared to the AIMS, with little relationship in the other areas.

Manual: Was not available.

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment? I would use this assessment if I worked in a hand clinic, SNF, outpatient, home health, and community settings.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Weakness: I was only able to find 3 articles since 1991 regarding the reliability and validity on the AFHT. Some of the required equipment can get expensive and it is a lot to carry around if working in home health or the community.

Strength: The AHFT is very quick and easy to administer. It also gives the tester a way to measure strength and dexterity before and after treatment as a way to measure results or show improvement.

References: Information regarding validity and reliability was taken from this article since the manual was not available. It provides good information if you are interested in further resources:

Backman, C., Mackie, H., & Harris, J. (1991). Arthritis hand function test: Development of a standardized assessment tool. *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* 11(4), 245-256.