

"HITS" A domestic violence screening tool for use in the community

HITS Tool for Intimate Partner Violence Screening: Please read each of the following activities and fill in circle that best indicates the frequency with which you partner acts in the way depicted.

How often does your partner?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Fairly often	Frequently
1. Physically hurt you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Insult or talk down to you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Threaten you with harm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Scream or curse at you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	1	2	3	4	5

Each item is scored from 1-5. Thus, scores for this inventory range from 4-20. A score of greater than 10 is considered positive.

Clinical Research and Methods
(Fam Med 1998;30(7):508-12.)

HITS is copyrighted in 2003 by Kevin Sherin MD, MPH; For permission to use HITS, Email kevin_sherin@doh.state.fl.us; *HITS is used globally in multiple languages 2006

HITS: A Short Domestic Violence Screening Tool for Use in a Family Practice Setting

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Background and Objectives: Domestic violence is an important problem that is often not recognized by physicians. We designed a short instrument for domestic violence screening that could be easily remembered and administered by family physicians.

Methods: In phase one of the study, 160 adult female family practice office patients living with a partner for at least 12 months completed two questionnaires. One questionnaire was the verbal and physical aggression items of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS). The other was a new four-item questionnaire that asked respondents how often their partner physically Hurt, Insulted, Threatened with harm, and Screamed at them. These four items make the acronym HITS. In phase two, 99 women, who were self-identified victims of domestic violence, completed the HITS.

Results: For phase one, Cronbach's alpha was .80 for the HITS scale. The correlation of HITS and CTS scores was .85. For phase two, the mean HITS scores for office patients and abuse victims were 6.13 and 15.15, respectively. Optimal data analysis revealed that a cut score of 10.5 on the HITS reliably differentiated respondents in the two groups. Using this cut score, 91% of patients and 96% of abuse victims were accurately classified.

Conclusions: The HITS scale showed good internal consistency and concurrent validity with the CTS verbal and physical aggression items. The HITS scale also showed good construct validity in its ability to differentiate family practice patients from abuse victims. The HITS scale is promising as a domestic violence screening mnemonic for family practice physicians and residents.

HITS- A violence screening tool for domestic violence and intimate partner violence

History of early HITS tool development and research at UIC-Christ Hospital Residency in Illinois

Academic projects were developed at the UIC-Christ Family Practice Residency in 1996-2002 most notably including the development of a new domestic violence screening tool known as HITS. The tool was developed by the then UIC-Christ Family Practice Residency Program director, Kevin Sherin MD, MPH,. The original research with the HITS instrument involved: Dr's Zitter, Sinacore, Li and Shakil and validated the tool in several populations including the Family Practice Center population and domestic violence shelter populations. The UIC –Christ FPR website then stated that “ The problem of domestic violence is foremost in the minds of many patients, and it is often unrecognized by health providers. Drs. Sherin, Zitter, Bardwell, Li, Shakil and Shannon are all involved in the series of "HITS" research phases. "HITS" is a four-item instrument used to screen for domestic violence. Please see "HITS: A Short Domestic Violence Screening Tool for Use in a Family Practice Setting," Family Medicine, July-August 1998, pp. 508-512. Recently HITS Phase III was completed, and Phase IV is in the planning phase” .(The above history is from the UIC-Christ FPR website below: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/uiccfpr/research.htm#History>)

The original HITS research is found on the Family Medicine Journal Website
<http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm1998/julaug98/abstrac9.html>

Other researchers using HITS

HITS is used globally now in China, Saudi Arabia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South and North America. It has been validated for women in Spanish, and partner violence with males. In the US, the HITS tool is used or has been recommended by Kaiser Permanente Group of Northern California, The New Jersey Hospital Association, the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, Parkland Hospital in Dallas, the Department of OB GYN at USF in Tampa, the CDC, and others. It has been translated into multiple languages including Mandarin Chinese and Arabic. Below are some of the US published researchers who are working with the HITS tool.

Dr Amer Shakil has continued the HITS research program in Texas at Texas Southwestern health center at Dallas. Dr. Shakil has validated the HITS tool in Males, and is now working on a Pediatric Version Of HITS.

[Link for Male HITS study at STFM site](#)

<http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2005/abstracts.cfm?xmlFileName=fammedvol37issue3.xml#Amer193>

Dr. Ping Hsin-Chen at the University of Medicine and Denistry of New Jersey has validated the HITS tool in Spanish populations.

Abstract:
<http://fampra.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/cmi075?ikey=FkbUiqUfEZzA9YT&keytype=ref>

http://www.femalepatient.com/html/arc/sig/screening/articles/029_04_039.asp

Recent internet search yielded the following links with information about the HITS tool:

http://apha.confex.com/apha/128am/techprogram/paper_14805.htm

[Validation of the HITS Domestic Violence Screening Tool With Males](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

A four-item HITS (Hurt-Insult-Threaten-Scream) screening tool is one of those instruments. ... applicable screening tool like HITS is established, fu- ...

<http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2005/March/Amer193.pdf> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

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Validation of the HITS Domestic Violence Screening Tool With Males ... A four-item HITS (Hurt-Insult-Threaten-Scream) screening tool is one of those ...

<http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2005/abstracts.cfm?xmlFileName=fammedvol37issue3.xml> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening Tool: The ...](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

Conclusion: HITS shows promise of being a rapid screening tool for intimate partner violence screening. Further studies in other populations are warranted. ...

http://apha.confex.com/apha/128am/techprogram/paper_14805.htm [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Brief Screening Tools](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

... in the Emergency Department" JAMA 1997; 277: 1357-1361. HITS Screening Tool. Have any of the following occurred to you by a partner? H. HURT physically? ...

http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medtrng/domain/pdfs/Brief_Screening_Tools.pdf [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[HITS: a short domestic violence screening tool for use in a family ...](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES: Domestic violence is an important problem that is often not recognized by...

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=9669164&dopt=Abstract

[Screening for domestic violence in a predominantly Hispanic ...](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

The utility of validated screening tools to detect abuse in diverse populations ... Reliability and validity of HITS were compared with the ISA-P and WAST. ...

<http://fampra.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/22/6/617> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Screening for domestic violence in a predominantly Hispanic ...](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

English HITS was effective as a screening tool for domestic violence ($P < 0.001$). ... Given that no other screening tools will be used before HITS in actual ...

<http://fampra.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/22/6/617> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Domestic Violence](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

HITS is a screening tool that is designed for outpatient clinical settings and consists of four questions based on the acronym for Hurt, Insult, Threaten, ...

<http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php?xmlFilePath=journals/ijapa/vol4n1/violence.xml> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Domestic Violence Nursing Policies](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

Total Hits - 5280 | Hits Today - 3413, View Ratings | Add Your Rating. Domestic Violence Screening Tools for Health Care Professionals Adobe pdf format ...

<http://www.4nursingmanagers.com/Policies/rn/asp/ID.27/pt/ViewInCat.htm> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Femalepatient.com](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

The Hurt, Insult, Threat, Scream (HITS) screening tool was designed as a ... HITS: A short domestic violence screening tool for use in a family practice ...

http://www.femalepatient.com/html/arc/sig/screening/articles/029_04_039.asp [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

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[Appendix 3. Screening Instruments](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

Domestic Violence Screening Tool58. Have you ever been threatened, hit, punched, slapped, or injured by a husband, boyfriend, or significant other you had ...

<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/famviolence/fvrevapp3.htm> [\[Preview This Site\]](#)

[Journal of Family Practice: Domestic violence: screening made ...](#) [\[New Window\]](#)

New screening tools are briefer and more efficient than earlier devices. The HITS Scale (38) (Hurt, Insult, Threaten, Scream; Table 2) is a practical 4-item ...

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0689/is_7_52/ai_106026459