

# THE MODIFIED OVERT AGGRESSION SCALE (MOAS)

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Patient \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

Rate the patient's aggressive behavior over the past week. Select as many items as are appropriate. Refer to the pocket guide for the full measure.

### SCORING

1. Add items in each category
2. In scoring summary, multiply sum by weight and add weighted sums for total weighted score. Use this score to track changes in level of aggression over time.

#### Verbal aggression

- \_\_\_\_\_ 0 No verbal Aggression  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Shouts angrily, curses mildly, or makes personal insults  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Curses viciously, is severely insulting, has temper outbursts  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Impulsively threatens violence toward others or self  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Threatens violence toward others or self repeatedly or deliberately  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **SUM VERBAL AGGRESSION SCORE**

#### Aggression against Property

- \_\_\_\_\_ 0 No aggression against property  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Slams door, rips clothing, urinates on floor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Throws objects down, kicks furniture, defaces walls  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Breaks objects, smashes windows  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Sets fires, throws objects dangerously  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **SUM PROPERTY AGGRESSION SCORE**

#### Autoaggression

- \_\_\_\_\_ 0 No autoaggression  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Picks or scratches skin, pulls hair out, hits self (without injury)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Bangs head, hits fists into walls, throws self onto floor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Inflicts minor cuts, bruises, burns, or welts on self  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Inflicts major injury on self or makes a suicide attempt  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **SUM AUTOAGGRESSION SCORE**

#### Physical Aggression

- \_\_\_\_\_ 0 No physical aggression  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Makes menacing gestures, swings at people, grabs at clothing  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Strikes, pushes, scratches, pulls hair of others (without injury)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Attacks others, causing mild injury (bruises, sprain, welts, etc.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Attacks others, causing serious injury  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **SUM PHYSICAL AGGRESSION SCORE**

CATEGORY	SUM SCORE	WEIGHTS	WEIGHTED SUM
Verbal Aggression		x 1	
Aggression against Property		x 2	
Autoaggression		x 3	
Physical Aggression		x 4	
<b>Total Weighted Score</b>			

\*Modified from Kay SR, Wolkenfeld F, Murrill LM (1988), Profiles of aggression among psychiatric patients: I. nature and prevalence. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease* 176:539-546

