

## User Manual - Knowledge

### Definition

A 'Knowledge' questionnaire measures respondent's cognizance of a clinical problem, its alternatives, rationale, main benefits, risks and side effects. Items focus on information considered essential for decision making.

### Sample Tool

## What I know about osteoporosis therapy now

Here are some questions about osteoporosis therapy. We would like to know how familiar you are with osteoporosis therapy before you use the decision support strategy.

Below are listed some statements about osteoporosis therapy. Please show whether you think they are true, false, or you are not sure by circling the word beside each statement.

### 1. Major risk factors for hip fracture include:

Your mother broke her hip or wrist	True	False	Unsure
You have low bone density (< 2.5 SD)	True	False	Unsure
You've had a low trauma fracture since age 50	True	False	Unsure
Your weight is low	True	False	Unsure

### 2. Medications which lower your risk of hip fracture include:

Alendronate / Fosamax	True	False	Unsure
Etidronate / Didrocal	True	False	Unsure
Raloxifene / Evista	True	False	Unsure
Hormone replacement therapy	True	False	Unsure
Risedronate / Actonel	True	False	Unsure

### 3. Medications which lower your risk of spine fracture include:

Alendronate / Fosamax	True	False	Unsure
Etidronate / Didrocal	True	False	Unsure
Hormone replacement therapy	True	False	Unsure
Raloxifene / Evista	True	False	Unsure
Risedronate / Actonel	True	False	Unsure

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### 4. Spine fracture can cause:

Loss of height	True	False	Unsure
Curved spine (Dowager's Hump)	True	False	Unsure
Chronic back pain	True	False	Unsure

### 5. Possible benefits of taking raloxifene (Evista) are:

Decreased risk of breast cancer	True	False	Unsure
Decreased hot flashes	True	False	Unsure
Decreased bad cholesterol	True	False	Unsure

### 6. Possible side effects of using raloxifene (Evista) include:

Increased hot flashes	True	False	Unsure
Leg cramps	True	False	Unsure
Increased risk of blood clots	True	False	Unsure

### 7. Possible side effects of alendronate (Fosamax) include:

Heartburn	True	False	Unsure
Increased risk of breast cancer	True	False	Unsure
Increased risk of ulcers	True	False	Unsure

### 8. Possible benefits of taking long-term hormone replacement therapy are:

Protection from breast cancer	True	False	Unsure
Decreased urinary problems	True	False	Unsure
Reduction in hot flashes	True	False	Unsure

### 9. Possible risks and side effects of using hormone replacement therapy include:

Increased risk of breast cancer with long term use	True	False	Unsure
Increased risk of diabetes	True	False	Unsure
Increase risk of blood clots	True	False	Unsure

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### *Directions for Use*

In a short introductory statement, respondents are asked to indicate whether they believe the listed statements are true, false or respondent is unsure.

### *Scoring and Interpretation*

Items are given a score value of 1 (if respondent correctly selects 'true' or 'false') and 0 (if incorrect or respondent answers 'unsure'). Items are totaled and a mean knowledge score can be calculated. For comparison with 0 – 100 scales, the score can be converted to a percentage of correct responses.

### *Psychometric Properties*

Internal consistency coefficients: alpha 0.82 [1] and 0.83 [2,3].

Content validity is established by having panel ensure that measure taps understanding of key concepts in decision aid. Content in decision aid is based on scientific evidence.

Sensitive to change [2,4,5,6,7,8]

Discriminates between decision aids and usual care controls [1].

NB: does not usually discriminate between a simple decision aid (e.g. facts only) and a detailed decision aid (facts, probabilities, values clarification) because of the overlap in information between the two interventions [3].

### *Clinical Applications using this Tool*

Knowledge questionnaires have been developed for the following clinical applications: Atrial Fibrillation [1], HRT [2,3], Lung Cancer [4], Autologous blood donation [5], Long-term tube feeding [6], Osteoporosis [7], Breast Cancer prevention [8].

### *Availability*

These tools are available in other languages as [listed here](#). They are protected by copyright but are freely available for you to use, provided you cite the reference in any questionnaires or publications. We would appreciate receiving a copy of any documents developed using this tool.

For further information or to send us documents you develop, please e-mail the Ottawa Health Decision Centre ([ohdec@ohri.ca](mailto:ohdec@ohri.ca)).

### References

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8. Stacey CD, O'Connor AM, DeGrasse C, Verma S. Development and evaluation of a breast cancer prevention decision aid for higher risk women. *Health Expectations* 2003; 6: 3-18.