

TABLE 2

Clinical Interview

I. *Definition of problem behavior*

A. *Nature of the problem as defined by client:*

"As I understand it, you came here because ..." (Discuss reasons for contact as stated by referral agency or other source of information). "I would like you to tell me more about this. What is the problem as you see it?" (Probe as needed to determine client's view of the problem behavior, i.e., what he or she is doing, or failing to do, that the client or somebody else defines as a problem).

B. *Severity of the problem*

1. "How serious a problem is this as far as you are concerned?" (probe to determine client's view of the problem behavior, i.e., what he or she is doing, or failing to do, or somebody else defines as a problem).
2. "How often do you (exhibit problem behavior if a disorder of commission, or have ... occasion to exhibit desired behavior if a problem of omission)?" (The goal is to obtain information regarding frequency of response).

C. *Generality of the problem*

1. *Duration*

"How long has this been going on?"

Extent

"Where does the problem usually come up?" (Probe to determine situations in which problem behavior occurs, e.g., "Do you feel that way at work? How about at home?").

II. *Determinants of problem behavior*

A. *Conditions that intensify problem behavior*

"Now I want you to think about the times when (the problem) is worst. What sorts of things are going on then?"

B. *Conditions that alleviate problem behavior*

"What about the times when (the problem) gets better? What sort of things are going on then?"

C. *Perceived origins*

"What do you think is causing (the problem)?"

D. *Specific antecedents*

"Think back to the last time (the problem) occurred. What was going on at that time?"

As needed:

1. *Social consequences*

"What did (significant others identified above) do?"

2. *Personal consequences*

"How did that make you feel?"

F. *Suggested changes*

"You have thought a lot about (the problem). What do you think might be done to improve the situation?"

G. *Suggested leads for further inquiry*

"What else do you think I should find out about to help you with this problem?"

Taken from D. Peterson. *The clinical study of social behavior*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crafts, 1968.

"Columbo"-like style of inquiry

What I hear you saying is ...

Correct me if I am wrong, but what I hear you saying is?

I am not sure if I quite understand, can we go over that one more time?

Let me see if I have understood (captured) what you said.

I am wondering in what ways your becoming stressed in situation _____, is like you becoming stressed in situation _____?

On the one hand I hear you saying _____ and on the other hand I hear you saying _____ . I wonder how these two things go together?

You seem to be telling me _____. Am I correct in assuming that _____?

I get the feeling that _____. Is that the way you see it?

What is different about those times when situations are really upsetting versus those times when situations are not so troubling?

You're not sure. I'm not sure either. Let us consider how we might find out together.

We have covered a lot of territory so far, is there anything I said that was confusing, not clear or troubling?

Assessment Measures

PTSD Measures (See Watson, 1990 for a general review)

PTSD Question from Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS)

Kinzie et al., 1986; Robins et al., 1982

PTSD Interview

Watson et al., 1991

Diagnostic Interview Schedule -- Disaster Supplement (DIS-DS)

Robins & Smith, 1983

Jackson Structured Interview for PTSD

Keane et al., 1985

Use Meichenbaum
PTSD Symptom Scale (PSS) -- 17 item semistructured interview and 17 item self-report scale that corresponds to DSM-III-R criteria. It assesses the severity of symptoms over the last two weeks. The self-report scale is somewhat more conservative than the interview version. Takes about 10 minutes to administer. Interviewer can be trained within 2-3 hours.

Rothbaum et al., 1990; Foa et al., in press

Tried to DSM-III-R
Penn Inventory of PTSD -- 26 items of scaled sentences that yield a score from 0 to 78. A cutoff score of 35 is used to identify PTSD. Test completed within 10 minutes.

Hartmarberg, 1992

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index

Pynoos et al., 1987

Cincinnati Stress Response Schedule (CSRS) -- an 80-item symptom checklist that covers such areas as core symptoms, sleep disturbance, phobic avoidance, obsessive-compulsive, paranoid, somatic and borderline symptoms.

Green, 1993

Retrospective Assessment of Traumatic Experience (RATE) -- 45 to 70 minute semi-structured interview

Gallagher et al., 1992

Clinicians Stress Response Rating Scale

Weiss et al., 1984

PTSD Assessment Instruments -- a review

Watson, 1990

Clinician Administered PTSD Scale - Form 1

Blake et al., 1990

Traumagram Questionnaire

Figley, 1987

Purdue Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Scale

Figley, 1987

Weekly Symptom Checklist of PTSD Symptoms

Resnick & Newton, 1992

PTSD Subscales of MMPI -- 49 items

Keane et al., 1984; Watson et al., 1986

Used only
Impact Event Scale (IES) -- 15 item self-report of trauma-related symptoms that tap intrusive ideation and avoidance (with combat veterans -- see Schwarzwald et al., 1987)

Horowitz et al., 1979; Zilberg et al., 1982