

Opioid Risk Tool

Introduction

The Opioid Risk Tool (ORT) is a brief, self-report screening tool designed for use with adult patients in primary care settings to assess risk for opioid abuse among individuals prescribed opioids for treatment of chronic pain. Patients categorized as high risk are at an increased likelihood of future drug misuse. The ORT can be administered and scored in less than 1 minute and has been validated in both male and female patients but not in nonpain populations.

Opioid Risk Tool

This tool should be administered to patients upon an initial visit prior to beginning opioid therapy for pain management. A score of 3 or lower indicates low risk for future opioid abuse; a score of 4 to 7 indicates moderate risk for opioid abuse; and a score of 8 or higher indicates a high risk for opioid abuse.

Mark each box that applies	Female	Male
Family history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	1	3
Illegal drugs	2	3
Rx drugs	4	4
Personal history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	3	3
Illegal drugs	4	4
Rx drugs	5	5
Age between 16 and 45 years	1	1
History of preadolescent sexual abuse	3	0
Psychological disease		
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia	2	2
Depression	1	1
Scoring totals		

The questionnaire was developed by Lynn R. Webster, M.D., to assess the risk of opioid addiction.

References

1. "NIDAMED: Clinical Resources," National Institute on Drug Abuse, last accessed Dec. 8, 2025, www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals.
2. Lynn R. Webster and Rebecca M. Webster, "Predicting Aberrant Behaviors in Opioid-Treated Patients: Preliminary Validation of the Opioid Risk Tool," *Pain Medicine* 6, no. 6 (Nov.–Dec. 2005): 432–442.

