Mishel Uncertainty in Illness Scale (MUIS)


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Price & Availability – See instrument website, scale and manual available for a fee. Must request permission for use. Can download sample instrument from website.

Brief Description of Instrument – 30-item scale tapping the uncertainty in symptomatology, diagnosis, treatment, relationship with caregivers, and planning for the future for patients with cancer.

Scale Format – 5-point Likert.

Administration Technique – Self-administered questionnaire.

Factors and Norms – Two factors: 1) multi-attributed ambiguity and 2) unpredictability.

Internal Consistency – Multi-attributed ambiguity alpha ranges from = 0.89-0.91, unpredictability alpha = 0.64-0.72.

Construct Validity – Tested to see if experiencing an uncertain event in the clinical setting is
reflected in the scale score. Significant effect found on both factors. Tested to determine the relationship between uncertainty and degree of stress experienced, MUIS administered with the Hospital Stress Events Scale. Level of perceived uncertainty was strongly related to stress, multi-attributed ambiguity factors accounted for 12 percent of the variation in stress scores. Also tested uncertainty relationship with lack of comprehension by administering scale with Comprehension Interview. High level of uncertainty was correlated with a lower level of comprehension.

**Content & Face Validity** – Scale development based on theoretical framework of cognitive appraisal model and perceived uncertainty in illness model as well as interviews with patients and health provider review. Factors identified by factor analysis, and confirmed by replication with new sample.

**Strengths** – Instrument measures uncertainty in illness and recovery, scale consists of two factors confirmed by psychometric testing. Evidence to support construct validity of the scale.

**Updates** – Various scales available from instrument website:
- Parents' Perception of Uncertainty in Illness Scale - Family Member
- Parents' Perception of Uncertainty in Illness Scale
- Adult Uncertainty in Illness Scale (Community Form)
- Adult Uncertainty in Illness Scale
