

Presentation title:

Introduction and validation of the Early Assessment Risk List Version 3 (EARL-V3)

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The Early Assessment Risk List Version 3 (EARL-V3) is a structured professional judgment instrument designed for application with children aged 6 to 12 exhibiting antisocial behavior. Identifying risks is foundational to developing strategies to prevent aggressive and rule-breaking behavior in children. As the use of the EARL-V3 is increasing across Europe and North America, validating the psychometric properties of the instrument is of utmost importance. We evaluated inter-rater reliability (IRR), concurrent validity, and predictive validity of the EARL-V3 Total Score, the three subscales (Family, Child, and Barriers to Treatment) and the Overall Clinical Risk Judgment, using 124 Canadian case files (50 girls, 74 boys). Using intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC), we found moderate to excellent IRR for the EARL-V3 Total Score and two out of the three subscales. Gwet's AC1 analyses revealed fair to almost perfect interrater agreement across the individual 21 risk items and the Overall Clinical Risk Judgment. A moderate but significant correlation between the EARL-V3 and its previous versions, EARL-20B/21G, was found in a sub-sample. The EARL-V3 Total Score significantly predicted rule-breaking, aggressive, and internalizing behaviors assessed by the Child Behaviour Checklist at 6-18 months post assessment. The Family subscale further predicted internalizing behaviors, while the Child subscale significantly predicted rule-breaking and aggressive behaviors. The EARL-V3 has a moderate to good level of IRR, comparable or superior to previous versions of the scheme and to other Structured Professional Judgment instruments. The tool also shows good concurrent validity with previous versions of the EARL and can predict future aggressive and rule-breaking behavior and internalizing issues. Together, this demonstrates that the EARL-V3 is potentially informative measure to use with children in clinical practice.