Correct Condom Use Self-Efficacy Scale

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Consistent and correct male condom use has been noted as one effective method for preventing the transmission of HIV and reducing the risk of other STDs (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). Although a number of psychosocial constructs have been associated with condom use, a central construct, from a theoretical and an empirical perspective, has been condom use self-efficacy. Bandura (1994) defined self-efficacy as beliefs about one’s capabilities to produce designated levels of performance and suggested that self-efficacy largely determined how individuals feel, think, motivate themselves, and behave. Condom use self-efficacy, therefore, refers to an individual’s confidence in the ability to exert control over his or her motivation, behavior, and social environment to use condoms (Forsyth & Carey, 1998).

A number of previous measures of self-efficacy assess knowledge, behavioral intentions, or attitudes, but not an individual’s perception about his or her ability to perform specific behaviors (e.g., Goldman & Harlow, 1993; Lux & Petosa, 1994; Schaalma, Kok, & Peters, 1993). Other measures of self-efficacy are limited by their conceptualization of self-efficacy as a stable trait across different contexts (e.g., St. Lawrence, Brasfield, Jefferson, Alleyne, & Shirley, 1994) as opposed to a more domain-specific behavior. Many researchers also have relied on a single-item measure of self-efficacy that may limit the precision of measurement (e.g., Wulfert & Wan, 1993). Therefore, a scale that measures individuals’ perceptions of their ability to perform behaviors specific to correct condom use would have utility in public health research.

Description

The Correct Condom Use Self-Efficacy Scale (CCUSS) is a 7-item scale designed to measure an individual’s perception of the ease or difficulty with which he or she can apply and use male condoms correctly. This scale emerged from our earlier research on the prevalence and predictors of male condom use errors and problems (e.g., Crosby, Milhausen, Sanders, Graham, & Yarber, 2008; Crosby, Sanders, Yarber, Graham, & Dodge, 2002; Graham et al., 2006; Milhausen et al., 2009; Sanders et al., 2003; Sanders, Milhausen, Crosby, Graham, & Yarber, 2009; Yarber, Graham, Sanders, & Crosby, 2004; Yarber et al., 2005). CCUSS items reflect the condom use errors and problems that might occur before, during, and after sex.

Response Mode and Timing

Respondents are asked how easy or difficult it would be for them to perform various correct condom use tasks. Responses are provided using a scale ranging from 1 (Very Difficult) to 5 (Very Easy).

Scoring

Items are summed such that a higher score indicates greater self-efficacy for correct use of male condoms. The mean score among a sample of 278 adult male clients attending a sexually transmitted infections (STI) clinic was 27.61 (SD = 4.37, range = 8–35; Crosby, Salazar, et al., 2008).

Reliability

The scale produced a Cronbach’s alpha of .70 among the aforementioned STI clinic sample (Crosby, Salazar, et al., 2008).

Validity

Crosby, Salazar, et al. (2008) found that greater self-efficacy for correct use of condoms was associated with fewer condom use errors and problems.

References


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### Exhibit

**Correct Condom Use Self-Efficacy Scale**

*Directions:* Please circle the number that represents how *easy* or *difficult* it would be to do what each question asks. For example, if you thought a behavior in the statement would be very *easy*, you would circle number “5.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Verdict of Effort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How easy or difficult would it be for you to find condoms that fit you properly?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How easy or difficult would it be for you to apply condoms correctly?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. How easy or difficult would it be for you to keep a condom from drying out during sex?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How easy or difficult would it be for you to keep a condom from breaking during sex?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. How easy or difficult would it be for you to keep an erection while using a condom?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. How easy or difficult would it be for you to keep a condom on when withdrawing after sex?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How difficult would it be for you to wear a condom from start to finish of sex with your partner?</td>
<td>Very Difficult 2 3 4 5 Very Easy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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