Threadgold Communication Tool (TCT)

The Threadgold Communication Tool (TCT) measures expressive communication behavior during a Sonas Group Session. It is designed primarily for older people with dementia (Sonas apc, 2018). Sonas Group Sessions are delivered by Sonas apc-trained Sonas Licensed Practitioners (SLP). TCT consists of 14 items, with a scoring range from 0-4. The scores measure the average evidence for each item during the Sonas Group Session. The higher the score, the greater the level of expressive communication behavior, with a total score of 56.

No evidence = 0, very little evidence = 1, some evidence = 2, regular evidence = 3, frequent evidence = 4

Cut-off scores: Scores below 14 (Severe communication difficulties); 15-25 (Moderate communication difficulties); 26-44 (Mild communication difficulties); 45-56 (No communication difficulties).

Name of participant: _____

1. Speaking	0	1	2	3	4
2. Vocal sounds	0	1	2	3	4
3. Eye contact	0	1	2	3	4
4. Smiling	0	1	2	3	4
5. Singing	0	1	2	3	4
6. Using gesture	0	1	2	3	4
7. Interactive touch	0	1	2	3	4
8. Exercises	0	1	2	3	4
9. Rhythmic movements	0	1	2	3	4
10. Contribution	0	1	2	3	4
11. Using instruments	0	1	2	3	4
12. Interactive posture	0	1	2	3	4
13. Smell	0	1	2	3	4
14. Taste	0	1	2	3	4

Subtotal:

Total score (out of 56)**: _____**

Date: _____   **Name of SLP: _____**

The number of items was increased from 12 to 14 in this edition of the TCT (2018) to include the senses of smell and taste, based on the results of the psychometric test carried out in 2016 (Strøm, Engedal & Grov, 2016).

Verbal communication

1. *Speaking*: expresses ideas or feelings in words, samples of verbal interaction could be recorded
2. *Vocal sounds*: expresses with sounds only, no identifiable words, but any sound uttered by the participant e.g. laugh

Non-verbal communication

3. *Eye contact*: briefly meeting the eyes of another person, either the group leader, helper or other member of the group.
4. *Smiling*: using lips/mouth to convey pleasure enjoyment or satisfaction.
5. *Singing*: indicating the ability to sing the words, 'la, la' or hum during this section of the group.
6. *Using gesture*: any gesture that could be interpreted as having meaning e.g. waving, pointing, conducting the music, or indicating the person does/doesn't want something.
7. *Interactive touch*: patting or stroking someone's hand, holding hands. Can be observed when shaking hands during the greeting and farewell song.
8. *Exercises*: partaking in any of the exercise section. No matter how small the movement, it is about the person participating to their best ability.
9. *Rhythmic movements*: shaking or beating instrument in time to music, swaying to music, clapping hands, tapping feet, beating time with a finger to the best of the person's ability.
10. *Contribution*: evidence of willingness to attempt to sing, say a poem or any other personal contribution, either verbal or non-verbal or the person being facilitated to contribute by the leader e.g. the leader telling the person's story
11. *Using instruments*: any appropriate active use of an instrument e.g. beating time with drumstick, or shaking maracas.
12. *Interactive posture*: open posture, turning towards someone, reaching to take someone's hand e.g. Does the person appear engaged with the session, how does their body language reflect their engagement?
13. *Smell:* response to stimulation of smell.
14. *Taste:* response to stimulation of taste.

References

Sonas apc. (2018). *Sonas Course Booklet*.

Strøm, B. S., Engedal, K., & Grov, E.-K. (2016). A Psychometric Evaluation of the Threadgold Communication Tool for Persons with Dementia. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders Extra, 6*(1), 150-160.

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