

CAGE Questionnaire

How to Use CAGE

The CAGE questionnaire is probably the most widely used alcohol screening test in the United States. *CAGE* is a mnemonic for each of the 4 questions in the test. This helps the screener to easily memorize the questions and ask the questions more routinely and casually during an assessment interview. When a positive screen occurs, the test administrator can further screen with quantity and frequency questions.

The C, A, and G questions are often positive when there are already negative consequences of drinking existing for the patient. The E question may be positive for alcohol-dependent individuals who drink in the morning to prevent alcohol withdrawal.

This instrument is designed for screening purposes only and is not to be used as a diagnostic tool.

CAGE Test [Ewing, 1984]

C Have you ever felt you should **cut down** on your drinking?

A Have people ever **annoyed** you by criticizing your drinking?

G Have you ever felt **guilty** about your drinking?

E Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning (an **eye-opener** or **early-morning drink**) to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover or residual drug effect?
