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Behavioral Assessment

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Synonyms

[Behavior/behavioral analysis](#); [Behavior/behavioral observation](#)

Definition

Behavioral assessment is a systematic collection of data, obtained through direct observation, often in natural settings, rather than sole administration of standardized tests. Behavior assessment can be informal or formal and standardized. Based on learning theory, behavioral assessment considers the context of a person's actions, including antecedents that precede and might trigger the action, as well as consequences that follow the behavior which might reinforce the behavior. Behavior assessment can be used to describe a person's functioning (i.e., arousal, initiation, or agitation) and evaluate effectiveness of therapy interventions or medications. In persons who have

behavioral disorders due to neurological causes, behavior assessment is the first step for evaluating the situation so that remediation recommendations can be made. Patients are often directly observed in physical or occupational therapy sessions and in the home or classroom.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Behavior Assessment System for Children \(BASC\)](#)
- ▶ [Behavior Management](#)
- ▶ [Behavior Modification](#)
- ▶ [Behavior Rating Inventory for Executive Functions](#)
- ▶ [Behavioral Analysis](#)
- ▶ [Behavioral Assessment of the Dysexecutive Syndrome](#)
- ▶ [Behavioral Therapy](#)
- ▶ [Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scale](#)
- ▶ [Functional Assessment](#)
- ▶ [Functional Assessment Measure](#)

References and Readings

Jacobs, H. E. (1993). *Behavior analysis guidelines and brain injury rehabilitation*. Gaithersburg: Aspen.