

Assessment:

Sexual Risk Cognitions Questionnaire (SRCQ)

Listed below are a variety of thoughts that pop into people's heads when they are having unsafe penetrative sex (sexual intercourse without a condom) whether with a casual or regular partner.

Scale items:

I do not use a condom because:

1. I want to show him that he's somebody special.
2. He will respect me more if we don't use a condom.
3. I feel pressured by him not to use a condom.
4. If I suggest using a condom he will suspect that I have been unsafe.
5. I've had unsafe sex so many times so why bother being safe now.
6. He is the same HIV status as me so it doesn't matter.
7. I enjoy sex more without a condom.
8. He may reject me if I suggest using a condom.
9. He/I will withdraw before ejaculation and this will be safe.
10. My wishing to use a condom would suggest to him that I think he may have been promiscuous.
11. I have very little to look forward to in life, so there is no point in practicing safer sex.
12. We get so far sometimes that it's not worth using a condom.
13. He may get angry/upset if I suggest using a condom.
14. He may lose his erection if a condom is used.
15. Unsafe sex is just one of life's many risks.
16. He will like me more if we don't use a condom.
17. Most of the time I'm careful, it won't matter just this once.
18. If I say I want to use a condom he may think I have doubts about how safe he has been in the past.
19. I think he doesn't want to use a condom so we don't.
20. If I suggest using a condom he may think that I have been promiscuous.
21. Sex is more exciting without a condom.
22. I've already had unsafe sex with him, what's the point of using a condom this time.

If the questionnaire is used with individuals who always practice safer sex, the word stem should be modified to "I do not use a condom or I have considered not using one because".

For MSW, change pronouns in items 1-22.

Following is a sample subsection designed for HIV-negative gay men. Other subscales exist for different groups.

1. He looks so healthy he can't possibly be HIV positive.
2. He can't be HIV-positive because he is willing to have sex without a condom.
3. He seems intelligent/well-educated, so I'm sure he has been careful.
4. I'm sure he isn't infected.
5. My positive state of mind can prevent me from being infected.
6. I'm too healthy to become infected.
7. I've been lucky so far, I'm sure I'll continue to be lucky.
8. I don't care if I become HIV positive.
9. People who are HIV positive would insist on using a condom.
10. My regular partner only has unsafe sex with me so I'm safe.
11. I believe him when he says he is negative.
12. I'm always the active/penetrative partner therefore I'm safe.
13. Any other thoughts?_____

USE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE CATEGORIES.

- 1. Never had thought**
- 2. Very occasionally had thought**
- 3. Occasionally had thought**
- 4. Frequently had thought**
- 5. Very frequently had thought.**