The Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI) is the shortened version of the Symptoms Checklist-90. The BSI covers 9 symptom dimensions of depression:
- Somatization
- Obsession-compulsion,
- Interpersonal sensitivity,
- Depression,
- Anxiety,
- Hostility,
- Phobic anxiety,
- Paranoid ideation, and
- Psychoticism.

Three global indices of distress are also used: Global Severity Index, Positive Symptom Distress Index, and Positive Symptom Total. These measure the number and intensity of reported symptoms, as well as current or past level of symptomatology.

The BSI is best used to screen for global psychological distress, and requires only a reading knowledge equivalent to that of a sixth grade education.

The inclusion of somatic items may cause an overestimation of psychiatric symptoms in individuals with SCI.

You Will Need
Approx. 8-12 minutes to complete 53 items

Scoring:
5 point Likert-type scale ranging from 0 (not at all) to 4 (extremely) representing the intensity of distress over the past week.

Training:
Minimal training is required. A specialized degree in health care with an appropriate license or certificate is required to purchase copyrighted forms and manual from the publisher.

The actual scale and manual can be purchased here:
http://psychcorp.pearsonassessments.com/HAIWEB/Cultures/en-us/Productdetail.htm?Pid=PAbsi
Available in: English, Spanish and French

Assessment Interpretability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimal Clinically Important Difference</th>
<th>Statistical Error</th>
<th>Typical Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Not established for SCI                 | Not established for SCI | **Mean (SD) Scores:**
|                                         |                     | Global Severity Index (GSI): 56.98 (11.69)
|                                         |                     | Positive symptom total: 53.53 (12.15)
|                                         |                     | (Mitchell et al. 2008; n=40, 20 males; mixed injury types; mean time post SCI: 113.9 months) |
Measurement Properties

Validity – High

High correlation with Assistive Technology Device Predisposition Assessment (ATD-PA) QOL subset:
Correlation = -0.71

High correlation with Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS):
Correlation = -0.64

(Scherer & Cushman 2001; n=20, 10 male, acute SCI)

High correlation between BSI-Depression subscale and Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) – Depression subscale:
Correlation = 0.71

High correlation between BSI – Anxiety scale and DASS-Anxiety subscale:
Correlation = 0.61

(Mitchell et al. 2008; n=40, 20 males; mixed injury types; mean time post SCI: 113.9 months)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 3

Reliability – High

High Internal Consistency:
α = 0.96

(Tate et al. 1993; n=162, 128 males; mixed injury type; mixed chronicity)

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 1

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect: Not established for SCI
Effect Size: Not established for SCI
Number of studies reporting responsiveness data: 0