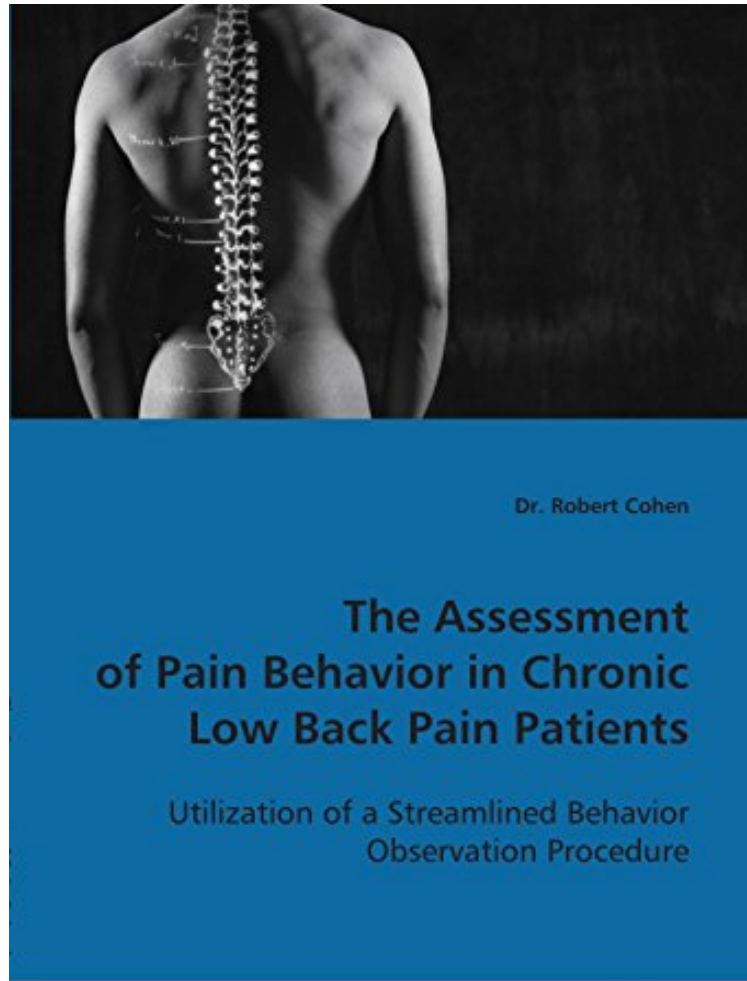


[Pdf free] The Assessment of Pain Behavior in Chronic Low Back Pain Patients: Utilization of a Streamlined Behavior Observation Procedure

The Assessment of Pain Behavior in Chronic Low Back Pain Patients: Utilization of a Streamlined Behavior Observation Procedure

Dr. Robert Cohen

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Streamlined Behavior Observation Procedure:

Observations of pain behavior have distinct advantages over self-report measures of pain. This is especially critical in a chronic lower back pain population where self-report of pain is unusually high. The goal of the current study was to investigate whether a streamlined behavior observation adapted from Keefe and Blockquist's (1982) 10-minute observation is effective in identifying somatic amplification in a sample of Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP) sufferers. We examined the relationship between a 4-minute behavior observation and the Somatic Amplification Rating Scale (SARS), a physiological exam measuring incongruent physical symptoms. Somatic amplification describes the tendency to report physical symptoms that are out of proportion to medical findings. Ninety-seven participants were recruited to take part in a study that examined levels of somatic amplification, affective distress, and frequency of pain behaviors.

About the Author Dr. Robert Cohen received his bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and received his masters and doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology with a focus on behavioral medicine and rehabilitation. He is currently practicing clinical neuropsychology in Florida.