## Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

### Availability:
The instrument is freely available here:

*Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire.*

### Classification:
- **Supplemental:** Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- **Exploratory:** Sports-Related Concussion (SRC) Subacute (after 72 hours to 3 months) and Persistent/Chronic (3 months and greater post concussion)

### Short Description of Instrument:
The SDQ is a screening measure for detecting behavior problems. There are multiple versions of the SDQ, depending on the age of the child, and the specific person completing the form (e.g., teacher/parent, self-completion).

A. All versions of the SDQ include 25-items pertaining to attributes and are divided into five sub-scales: emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity/inattention, peer relationship problems and pro-social behavior.

B. Extended versions of the SDQ have questions pertaining to whether the respondent thinks the child has a problem and further questions about chronicity, distress, social impairment and burden to others.

C. There are two follow-up questions for us after an intervention. The follow-up questions of the SDQ ask about the past one month, as opposed to the past six months or this school year, which is the reference period for the standard versions.

May be completed by children aged 11–16, or by parents or teachers of children aged 4–16. It can be completed in about 5 minutes using paper and pencil.

### Sports-Related Concussion Specific:

**Advantages:** This is an established measure in children with more severe acquired brain injury with initial use in the subacute phase in an international population which was referred to as "mild TBI" (not sports-related concussion specific) but appears to include at least some children with more severe injuries. Brief rating scale (25 items) with reasonable psychometric properties and concurrent validity with like measures.

**Limitations:** This is not a TBI-specific measure, and sensitivity has not been established in sports-related concussion. Minimal research with mild TBI, none with sports concussion.
### Scoring:
Questions are answered on a 3-point Likert scale. The score for each scale is the sum of item scores, generating a scale score from 0–10. A total difficulties score (from scores for hyperactivity, emotional symptoms, conduct problems and peer problems) ranges from 0–40.

### References: