

**A review of the instruments for the assessment of social phobia: some empirical data**

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Vicente E. Caballo<sup>1</sup>, José Olivares Rodríguez<sup>2</sup>, Cristina López-Gollonet<sup>o</sup>, M<sup>a</sup> Jesús Iurrtia<sup>3</sup>,  
and Ana Isabel Rosa Alcázar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Granada;* <sup>2</sup>*University of Murcia;* <sup>3</sup>*University of Valladolid (Spain)*

Social phobia (or social anxiety disorder) is a salient problem nowadays in western society. Its effective treatment and, even better, its prevention should be major goals for clinical psychology. Nevertheless, identifying individuals with social phobia/anxiety as well as evaluating the effectiveness of its prevention and treatment requires valid and reliable assessment instruments. In this article, different methods of assessment of social phobia/anxiety are presented. We have studied the correlations among the most used scales in the assessment of social phobia (SPAI, SAS, SIAS, LSAS) and other relevant variables (e.g., social skills, avoidant personality disorder (APD), neuroticism, extraversion). High correlations were found among all the measures of social phobia and also with those assessing social skills, APD and neuroticism, which gives an idea of the closeness of these constructs. Surprisingly, only a few low \_although significant\_ relationships were found with extraversion. This matter calls for a more detailed investigation