

# Arthritis Hand Function Test Manual

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The **Arthritis Hand Function Test** (AHFT) is a standardized assessment tool that will assist therapists to evaluate and document hand strength and dexterity in adults with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

The **AHFT** consists of eleven test items and takes approximately 20 minutes to administer. The test manual describes the purpose of the test, the standardized administration procedure for each item, results of reliability and validity studies, scoring procedures and includes instructions for assembly of the test kit.

Useful in both research and clinical applications, the **AHFT** can be used for pre- and post-operative evaluations, and to measure treatment outcomes pertaining to hand function.

Development of the **AHFT** has been described in the following articles:

Backman, C. & Mackie, H. (1997). Reliability and validity of the Arthritis Hand Function Test in adults with osteoarthritis. Occupational Therapy Journal of Research, 17.

Backman, C. & Mackie, H. (1996). Arthritis hand function test. Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section Newsletter, 19:4, 1-2.

Backman, C. & Mackie, H. (1995). Arthritis hand function test: Inter-rater reliability among self-trained raters. Arthritis Care and Research, 8, 10-15.

Backman, C., Mackie, H. & Harris, J. (1991). Arthritis hand function test: Development of a standardized assessment tool. Occupational Therapy Journal of Research, 11, 245-256.

**Please Note:** After purchase of the manual you will need to assemble your own test kit, which requires the purchase of standard equipment readily available through therapy catalogues and a local department store. Some items will require custom fabrication by persons possessing basic woodworking and sewing skills.

**It's easy to order!**

Send your request for the **AHFT** with your check or money order and complete name and mailing address, to:

Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy  
University of British Columbia  
T325 - 2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 2B5

[catherine.backman@ubc.ca](mailto:catherine.backman@ubc.ca)

**Cost**

**\$20.00 (Canadian)** includes handling and postage by regular mail  
by check or money order only, payable to the Dept of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy  
(OS&OT)

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# ARTHRITIS HAND FUNCTION TEST

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## **Arthritis Hand Function Test Peer-Reviewed Journal References**

### **Development of the AHFT:**

Backman, C. & Mackie, H. (1997) Reliability and validity of the arthritis hand function test among adults with osteoarthritis. *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 17, 55-66.

Backman, C., & Mackie, H. (1995). Arthritis hand function test: Inter-rater reliability among self-trained raters. *Arthritis Care and Research*, 8, 10-15.

Backman, C., Mackie, H., & Harris, J. (1991). Arthritis hand function test: Development of a standardized assessment tool. *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 11, 245-256.

### **AHFT with non-disabled adults:**

Backman, C., Cork, S., Gibson, D. & Parsons, J. (1992). Hand function: The relationship between pegboard dexterity and applied dexterity. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 59, 208-213.

### **Using the AHFT as an outcome measure in a wrist splint trial:**

Haskett, S., Backman, C.L., Porter, B., Goyert, J., Palejko, G. (2004). A cross-over trial of custom-made and commercially available wrist splints in adults with inflammatory arthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatism (Arthritis Care & Research)*, 51, 792-799.

### **Use of the AHFT by investigators not affiliated with the test authors:**

Baker, N.A. & Rogers, J.D. (2010). Association between computer use speed and age, impairments in function, and touch typing training in people with rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatism (Arthritis Care & Research)*, 62, 242-250.

Poole, J.L. Cordova, K.J. & Brower, L.M. (2006). Reliability and validity of a self-report of hand function in persons with rheumatoid arthritis. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. 19, 12-16.

Brower, L.M. & Poole, J.L. (2004). Reliability and validity of the Duruoz Hand Index in persons with systemic sclerosis (scleroderma). *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, 51, 805-809. [erratum appears in *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005 Apr 15;53(2):303].

Poole, J.L., Gallegos, M. & O'Linc, S. (2000). Reliability and validity of the Arthritis Hand Function Test in adults with systemic sclerosis (scleroderma). *Arthritis Care & Research*. 13, 69-73.

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