

Table 2. Factor loadings and responses to the individual items on the APTS given as percentages

Item		Factor Loading	Definitely not appropriate	As a last option	On rare occasions	Most of the time	Definitely appropriate
1	Should a doctor consider putting a bandage on a painful area (especially of a child) to reduce both pain and anxiety, even if this bandage will have little known direct effect on the injury?	0.131	10	13	29	21	27
2	A doctor suspects a patient of pretending to be sick. Should the doctor consider the use of placebo to find out if their pain is real or not?	.673	26	23	24	8	19
3	An elderly patient suffering from arthritis is getting too many painkillers. It is best for the patient if medication is reduced, but the patient refuses to take fewer pills. Placebo pills could be used for half the medication to obtain the desired reduction. Should the doctor consider their use?	.711	16	30	20	13	21
4	A new patient arrives at a doctor's office and expects a prescription. If the doctor refuses, there is the chance that this patient will not return and will seek another doctor. To maintain contact with this patient should the physician consider prescribing an unnecessary medication until the doctor can achieve a good doctor-patient relationship?	.411	72	10	11	3	4
5	An over-weight patient wishes to lose weight. Should a doctor consider the use of a placebo rather than use a weight-loss drug, hoping this patient might avoid the risk of later addiction or other side effects?	.782	40	20	21	9	10
6	All standard treatments have failed with a patient. Should a doctor consider it acceptable to use a placebo describing it as a "new treatment, not yet on the market but known to be effective" to calm the patient?	.679	37	27	17	9	10
7	A patient complains of ongoing headache. The doctor realizes the headache started when one of their family members died. Should the doctor consider the use of a placebo medication to treat this pain which is probably due to emotional factors related to the death of the relative?	.756	31	29	20	7	13
8	A patient is a moderate smoker (10-15 per day) and wishes to stop immediately but lacks the willpower to do so. He has come to his doctor believing pills are available that hold back the urge to smoke. Should the doctor consider prescribing a placebo to help him quit smoking?	.631	32	20	17	11	20
9	A patient that has incurable cancer has read a story in the newspaper that indicates that placebo treatment can be effective. The patient seems to understand the idea of placebo treatment. Should a doctor prescribe a placebo if the patient asks for the placebo?	.461	18	14	18	18	32
10	A doctor has a difficult patient who upsets the other staff members at the doctor's office. The patient seems to think they can be seen immediately whenever they wish. Their relatively harmless condition is unlikely to be helped by any treatment. Do you think the doctor should prescribe a placebo, hoping that this might provide some relief from this patient for himself and his staff?	.651	48	23	10	5	14