

Abstract

The development of a culture- and education-fair screening instrument for dementia is most valuable for epidemiological studies. The Community Screening Instrument for Dementia (CSI-D) was so developed and was widely validated. This study aims to validate a Chinese version of CSI-D as screening test for dementia in Hong Kong. 120 subjects were recruited, with 30 into each of 4 groups (demented, depressed, low education normal control and high education normal control). CSI-D and ten-word list learning task were applied on them. Both the internal consistency and the inter-rater reliability of CSI-D were satisfactory. CSI-D had highly significant correlation with the ten-word list learning task, suggesting good concurrent validity. CSI-D could differentiate the demented (mild to moderate severity) from the non-demented subjects at the significance level of $p < .01$, and the scores were not affected by educational level. The discriminant validity of the cognitive score, informant score and discriminant function score of CSI-D was also supported by the ROC analysis. Among the cognitive subscales, orientation to time and place had the best discriminative power. 12 out of the 26 items in the informant part of CSI-D were identified which yield 88.3% correct classification rate of the original groups. A shortened version that included only the orientation to time and place and the 12 most discriminative informant items correctly classified 92.5% of all subjects. The score of the total immediate recall of ten-word list learning task added to the correct classification rate (94.2%), suggesting its potential value in improving the performance of CSI-D. In conclusion, the Chinese version of CSI-D is a valid and reliable screening instrument for dementia.