

ABSTRACT

The olfactory identification test (Morgan et al., 1995) was reported to have high accuracy of 86.1% in differentiating patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) from normal control elderly. The present study examined the utility of this test in diagnosing patients with AD in Hong Kong. The performance of 12 AD patients on olfactory identification test was compared with that of 12 matched normal control (NC) elderly. Results suggest that: (a) AD patients identify significantly fewer odors than NC subjects; (b) AD patients have significantly higher olfactory threshold than NC subjects; (c) olfactory identification test has a high sensitivity of 83.3 % in discriminating AD patients from normal controls. Given that the subjects in the present study have relatively lower level of education than those in the study of Morgan and his colleagues and the olfactory identification test demonstrated similarly sensitivity in both studies, this test can be a valuable diagnostic device for populations with varying levels of education.