

ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to study the clinical validity and applicability of the Cantonese version of Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (DRS) for the Chinese elderly in Hong Kong. The scale was found to have good reliability with internal consistency ranging from 0.7 to 0.9. Its significant correlation with the Cantonese version of Mini-Mental State Examination (CMMSE) evidenced satisfactory construct validity of the scale. The discriminant validity of the Cantonese version of DRS in differentiating Alzheimer's Disease (AD) patients and Normal Control (NC) elderly was also supported by the Receiver Operating Characteristics analysis. Several cutoff points were presented for different clinical or research application. Adjustment for the age and educational level of the DRS total score was recommended. The Initiation / Perseveration and Memory subscales were suggested to be an abbreviated version of the Cantonese version of DRS for quick screening and a discriminative formula for the abbreviated version was derived. The present results also showed the association between the impairment of the Cantonese version of DRS performance and the progress of the Alzheimer's Disease. Further studies were recommended for cross-validation of the discriminative formula as well as to examine the clinical validity of the Cantonese version of DRS in staging and differentiation of dementia.