

## Abstract

The current study examines the factors associated with test-retest reliability of the Chinese DISC-IV. The two types unreliable reporting, namely attenuation (positive response at Time 1 became negative at Time 2) and augmentation (negative response at Time 1 became positive at Time 2), were first analyzed on their relative contributions to the overall test-retest instability of the Chinese DISC-IV. Informant and item characteristics that were associated with each type of unreliable reporting were then examined. Seventy-eight parents and 79 youths attending child psychiatric clinics participated in the current study. They were interviewed twice using the Chinese DISC-IV with a test-retest interval of around 22 days. Consistent with previous studies, there was a general trend of attenuation across Time 1 and Time 2. Analyses on informant characteristics revealed that parents generally had better test-retest reliability than youth informants while younger age was associated with poorer reliability for youth. Item analyses suggested that certain features such as time elements and vague wordings were associated with higher unreliability. While previous studies mainly focused on attenuation as the source of unreliability, the current study illustrated the values of including augmentation in the studies of test-retest reliability. In addition, intriguing relationships of informants' and items' base rate (initial level of endorsement) with attenuation and augmentation were

identified. Possible causes of the general trend of attenuation and the relationships between base rates and unreliable reporting were discussed.