

## Abstract

The Chinese Autism Spectrum Quotient – Adolescent version (AQ-Adol-C), adopted and translated from the AQ-Adol (Baron-Cohen et al., 2006), was administered to Chinese adolescents between 12 to 18 years from the mainstream schools (Group 1, n = 809), with autism spectrum disorders (ASD; Group 2, n = 78) and with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD; Group 3, n = 51) in Hong Kong to examine the validity, reliability and generalizability of the instrument to the Chinese population. The 50-item and 39-item versions of AQ-Adol-C were found to have satisfactory internal reliability and test-retest reliability, and be able to discriminate ASD from normal controls and ADHD individuals as a psychiatric control. Factor analysis of the 39-item version supported a four-factor solution replicating all the original subscales except the Attention Switching subscale. To reach a sensitivity of 80%, a cutoff of 61 (75) was selected for the 50-item (39-item) version with 86.5% (88.4%) and 75% (74%) correction classification when discriminating between ASD and normal controls and discriminating between ASD and ADHD individuals respectively. Despite that the 50-item and 39-item versions demonstrated similar psychometric properties, the 39-item version was preferred because it excluded the items with questionable validity locally and required shorter time to complete. In conclusion, the AQ-Adol-C could be a useful screening tool in identifying to the

extent of autistic traits shown by an individual from normal controls and ADHD to aid the decision for referral for a full diagnostic assessment.