

ABSTRACT

Background: Studies have shown that people with learning disabilities (LD) have higher prevalence of psychiatric disorders. Unfortunately, early recognition of psychiatric disorders is sometimes difficult. In Hong Kong, no validated Chinese version of instrument is available for caregivers to screen for any mental health problems in people with LD.

Aims: To develop a Chinese version of PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) and test its psychometric properties in a sample of Chinese adults with LD in Hong Kong.

Materials and methods: The PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) was translated into Chinese by an independent translator and back-translated into English. Expert panels were formed to evaluate the content validity. Subjects (n=139) were recruited from the Psychiatric Unit for Learning Disabilities of Kwai Chung Hospital. They were assessed for clinical diagnosis and severity of clinical condition. A key informant was identified for each subject. They were asked to complete the Chinese version of PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) and 115 (82.7%) of them had completed and returned the Checklists. The psychometric properties of the Chinese version of PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) were then analyzed.

Results: The content relevancy and representativeness of the Chinese version of PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) were satisfactory. The internal consistency in terms of Cronbach's alpha values for the three total scores was 0.704, 0.805 and 0.483 respectively. Exploratory factor analysis revealed seven factors accounted for 70% variance. The sensitivity and specificity in identifying the psychiatric disorders covered by the Checklist was 32% and 60% respectively. The sensitivity and specificity in identifying severe clinical condition which warranted early assessment was found to be 64% and 71%. The Kappa value for inter-informant reliability ranged from -0.193 to 0.724 and the Kappa value for test-retest reliability ranged from -0.038 to 1.000.

Conclusion: The Chinese version of PAS-ADD Checklist (Revised) represents a useful tool in helping the caregivers to make informed referral decision for early multidisciplinary psychiatric assessment and management. Further modification and study on larger sample of subjects is needed before it is recommended for extensive use in the local LD population.

Key words: psychiatric assessment, learning disabilities, Hong Kong, Chinese.

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