

1. Introduction

The importance of reliable assessment of psychiatric diagnosis in clinical research is undisputed. Improvements in diagnostic reliability have been obtained through the use of structured diagnostic instruments such as the Present State Examination³⁵, the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia⁹ and the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-III-R.³³ The Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV¹³ was developed for use in research by trained clinicians. The SCID incorporates the use of obligatory questions, operational criteria from the DSM-IV, a categorical system for rating symptoms and an algorithm for arriving at a final diagnosis. It has been widely used in research in different parts of the world. This project aims at translating the original English version of the SCID into a bilingual Chinese/English version and exploring the reliability and validity of this instrument, so that it may become a useful tool in future psychiatric research involving Chinese/Cantonese-speaking subjects.