

Linking the Mini Mental State Examination to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

Ellen Gorus^{1,2}, Patricia De Vriendt¹, Ivan Bautmans^{1,2}, Tony Mets^{1,2}

¹Free University Brussels, Gerontology, Brussels, Belgium, ²Service of Geriatrics University Hospital Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

Objective

The objectives of the project are 1) to develop a uniform language in research and practice by creating a 'Minimal Data Set for Geriatric patients' based on existing measurement tools and 2) to improve communication and understanding between health professionals. Moreover, this could offer additional information about the specific focus of the measurement tool in question. This study aims to link the Mini Mental State Examination to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health both for the individual items and for the scoring system.

Methods

Psychometrical study is carried out based on data from a prospective observational study in older persons with and without cognitive deficits. All items of the MMSE and the MMSE-scores were linked to ICF-categories and ICF-scales according to the updated ICF-linking rules by a multidisciplinary team until consensus was reached. These results were confirmed by an other, neutral, multidisciplinary team. A paired non-parametrical technique was used to compare the MMSE and the ICF-based MMSE.

Results

Data of 217 healthy elder adults, 62 persons with Mild Cognitive Impairment, 63 patients with Alzheimer Disease were included. Mean age was 76 years (sd 5,87), there were 179 women; 156 men. The Results are currently being analysed and are not yet available.

Conclusion and implication for practice

The results indicate that it could be possible to develop assessment tools based on the categories and scale of the ICF. It is the aim of the research group to link additional assessment tools (like Katz, Lawton) to the ICF. This will enhance communication in interdisciplinary teams and clarity in assessment, since clinicians and researchers will be aware of the areas covered by the instruments.