

Measuring functional competence in older persons with Alzheimer's disease.

Doble, Susan E. ; Fisk, John D. ; MacPherson, Kathleen M. ; Fisher, Anne G. ; Rockwood, Kenneth

International Psychogeriatrics. Vol 9(1), Mar 1997, 25-38.

Abstract

20 Alzheimer's disease (AD) (mean age 76.5 yrs) and 44 nondemented (mean age 75.9 yrs) community-dwelling patients were assessed with the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS; A. G. Fisher, 1995), the Mini-Mental State Examination, and the Older Americans Resources and Services (OARS; G. G. Fillenbaum, 1985, 1988). Performance on all 3 assessments was significantly lower for the AD sample. The MMSE did not correlate significantly with the AMPS motor ability measures but it correlated modestly with the AMPS process ability measures. The OARS correlated significantly with the AMPS motor ability measure for the nondemented sample alone. Although mental status and self/proxy assessments provide some insight into individuals' instrumental activities of daily living competence, direct observation of instrumental activities of daily living task performance provides additional information regarding the subtle process and motor skills changes that occur in progressive dementing conditions.