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### Title

Can a Dementia Questionnaire Administered to Relatives or Friends of Subjects Accurately Diagnose Dementia

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### Authors

Segal, JM

Kawas, CH

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- P223 CAN A DEMENTIA QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED TO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS OF SUBJECTS ACCURATELY DIAGNOSE DEMENTIA?** James M. Segal, Claudia H. Kawas, MD, The Francis Scott Key Medical Center, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21224

The Dementia Questionnaire (DQ; Silverman et al, 1986) was designed to diagnose dementia among relatives of Alzheimer's disease probands for family history studies. This study evaluated the validity of the DQ administered by telephone to a volunteer cohort of 42 subjects followed at the Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging (BLSA) at the National Institute of Aging (NIA). Subjects were classified according to scores on the Blessed Mental Status Exam, clinical examination by an experienced neurologist, and autopsy findings in the case of deceased subjects. Many genetic and epidemiologic studies require the ascertainment of dementia for deceased or otherwise unavailable subjects, and the clinical population is often unable to provide adequate medical history and information. Thus, conclusions about dementia must be gained from informants who have known the subject well. The DQ has good inter-rater reliability (Silverman et al, 1986) and good inter-informant reliability (Silverman et al, in press), but no study of its validity has been published. This study shows good specificity and sensitivity for the diagnosis of dementia. While the BLSA participants are a select cohort, this study demonstrates the validity of the DQ as a useful tool in the diagnosis of dementia for studies of this type.