UC Irvine

Title

TELEPHONE SCREENING FOR DEMENTIA USING THE BLESSED IMC TEST

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9cp784dc

Journal

NEUROLOGY, 43(4)

ISSN

0028-3878

Authors

MORRISON, AS
KAWAS, CH

Publication Date

1993-04-01

Copyright Information

Peer reviewed

Dementia I: Clinical

85P

Telephone Screening for Dementia Using the Blessed IMC Test

Ann S. Morrison and Claudia H. Kawas, Baltimore, MD

Objective. To evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of the Blessed Information-Memory-Concentration (IMC) test administered over the phone as a screening instrument for the detection of dementia.

Background. Dementia ascertainment in large epidemiological studies can be problematic. In an effort to efficiently evaluate geographically wide-spread subjects lost to follow-up, we investigated the use of the Blessed IMC as a telephone screening instrument.

Design/Methods. Inactive participants from the Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging (no contact for 3 or more years) were surveyed utilizing the Blessed IMC over the telephone. All subjects who had scores greater than 2 errors and an age-stratified random sample (15%) of subjects with error scores of 0-2 received neuropsychological and neurological examinations, generally conducted in the subject's home.

Results. The Blessed IMC effectively identified subjects requiring further evaluation for probable dementia. Using a cut-off of 5 or more errors, 100% sensitivity was achieved with >70% specificity. Sensitivity and specificity for the range of IMC scores will be presented.

Conclusion. The Blessed IMC test can be efficiently used as a telephone screening instrument to identify potential cases of dementia in epidemiological studies.