

Family caregivers' assessment of functional abilities in persons with dementia in the community: the Chinese version of the Activities of Daily Living Questionnaire (ADLQ-CV)

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Introduction:

Functional assessment is of fundamental importance in dementia care. It provides health care professionals and policy-makers with valuable information with regard to diagnostic evaluation, service planning and allocation of health service resources.

Purpose of the project:

Given the limited availability of validated functional measures for use with persons with deteriorating cognitive functions in Chinese societies, the purpose of the study is to examine the psychometric properties of the Chinese version of the Activities of Daily Living Questionnaire (ADLQ-CV) in a sample of older Hong Kong Chinese adults with dementia.

Method:

The ADLQ-CV was administered to primary family caregivers of 125 community-dwelling individuals with dementia. Assessments were then made of the scale's reliability, validity, and factor structure.

Results:

Factor analysis yielded six factors that closely resembled the six subscales proposed in the original scale. The ADLQ-CV demonstrated excellent convergent validity with the Chinese version of the Disability Assessment for Dementia ($r = -0.92$, $p < 0.001$). The internal consistency of the ADLQ-CV was good (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.81$). Excellent test-retest reliability (ICC = 0.998) and inter-rater reliability (ICC = 0.997) of the ADLQ-CV were obtained. The ADLQ-CV showed a significant negative association with global mental states ($r = -0.80$, $p < 0.001$), but it did not correlate with the age or educational level of individuals with dementia.

Conclusion:

The findings suggest that the ADLQ-CV is a valid and reliable instrument for evaluating the functional abilities of Chinese people with dementia. The brevity and simplicity of administration make it a potentially useful tool for routine assessment of functional status of persons with dementia in community settings.