

The Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS): a multicultural cognitive assessment scale

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Reference:

Key Words:

dementia, assessment, cultural validity

Research aim:

To develop and validate a simple method for detecting dementia that is valid across cultures, portable and easily administered by primary health care clinicians.

Results/Conclusion:

The 6-item RUDAS assesses multiple cognitive domains including memory, praxis, language, judgement, drawing and body orientation. It appears not to be affected by gender, years of education, differential performance factors and preferred language. The area under the ROC curve for the RUDAS was 0.94 (95% CI 0.87-0.98). At a cut-point of 23 (maximum score of 30), sensitivity and specificity were 89% and 98%, respectively. Inter-rater (0.99) and test-retest (0.98) reliabilities were very high.

Implications:

The 6-item RUDAS is portable and tests multiple cognitive domains. It is easily interpreted to other languages, and appears to be culturally fair. However, further validation is needed in other settings, and in longitudinal studies to determine its sensitivity to change in cognitive function over time.

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

Number included in study:

(n=166) new referrals to geriatric outpatient clinic, (n=90) random sample of community dwelling elderly persons

Type of participants:

new referrals to geriatric outpatient clinic, community dwelling elderly persons, cultural and health advisory group members

Research approach:

Mixed methods

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: