Validation of a New version for Memory Assessment in a Group of Farsi Speaking, Shiraz residents

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Abstract

The general population is increasing due to factors such as promotion of public health and advancement of medical technology. Thus, investigating problems of older people is of paramount importance. Dementia disorders and the related cognitive and memory problems and lack of valid instruments for evaluations of cognitive factors have created a need to validate memory test batteries for the age group of 65-75 years. The present study sample included 90 subjects consisting of 45 men and women suffering from dementia and 45 normal subjects in Shiraz. The instruments used were the new sub-tests adapted from Wechsler Memory Scale–Third Edition, California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT) and Mini-Mental State Examination. The results showed that the alpha coefficients was between (.66) and (.94) and for the memory subtest scores, and between (.51) and (.68) for Californian Verbal Learning Test. The validity indices for this scale were also assessed. The results were consistent with theoretical predictions. Taking into account the reported alpha coefficient and validity it can be concluded that the new memory test battery has satisfactory psychometric characteristics for 65-75 years population in Shiraz.