The Comparison between Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) in Evaluating Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease

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Objectives: The purpose of this study was to compare the results of Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) in patients with dementia of the Alzheimer’s type (DAT) and to explore the feasibility of the clinical criteria adopted by the National Health Insurance (NHI) for acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (AChEI).

Methods: Fifty patients with DAT and 32 healthy controls matched for age and education were included in the study. All subjects underwent both MMSE and neuropsychological assessment-assisted CDR evaluations. The NHI of Taiwan approves patients of DAT with either MMSE=10~26 or CDR=1~2 of AChEI.

Results: There was a good agreement between MMSE and the neuropsychological assessment-assisted CDR (Kappa 0.87) in assessment of the severity of dementia. The ratios of dementia patients who met the NHI criteria for AChEI treatment were rather close (Kappa 0.76).

Conclusion: The cut-off point of MMSE score (≦ 26) in the NHI criteria for mild dementia was associated with a significant false positive rate if education level was not considered. CDR provided a more accurate assessment of severity of dementia than MMSE. Thus, use of the CDR criteria will facilitate approval of the use AChEI in more patients who are in need of treatment with this medication. These

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