

Tip Sheet 5 – The IQCODE (Short Form)

What is the IQCODE: Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) is a tool used to assess cognitive impairment in older people.

The tool requires an informant to rate cognitive change over time on a 5 point likert scale.

The IQCODE was developed by Jorm and Jacomb in 1989 and consisted of 26 questions; in 1994 a 16 item short version of the IQCODE was developed by Professor Anthony Jorm.

Information in this tip sheet will focus on the short version on this tool as it is quicker to administer, and therefore more practical to use during an ACAS assessment; it has also been recommended by the 2010 Expert Clinical Reference Group (ECRG) (Sansoni et al., 2010) at a national level.

The IQCODE should be used to supplement the other patient administered tools (e.g. the SMMSE; to increase sensitivity and specificity (Flicker et al, 1997; Flicker, 2010), or used in situations where the patient is unable to complete the assessment.

Benefits of the IQCODE: The IQCODE takes approximately 10-15 minutes to administer and is filled out by an informant. It can be used for people with lower levels of education and for those who are illiterate.

Cut-off score: The cut-off scores are based on the total score divided by the number of questions (average item score range 1-5). Higher scores indicate greater impairment. A score below 3.00 indicates improvement, 3.00 indicates no change, 3.01 – 3.50 indicates slight decline; 3.51- 4.00 indicates moderate decline; and 4.01 – 5.00 indicate severe decline.

Translated Tools

Translated versions of the IQCODE (both short and long forms) can be found at the website listed below (please note that the tools on this site may not have been validated):

<http://ageing.anu.edu.au/iqcode/>

In addition to these tools the following versions of the tool are also available:

Chinese: Fuh et al (1995) – see below- and Lim et al (2003) 26-item versions with the cut-off score of 3.4.



Further Resources and References

The web page listed below provides copies of the tool in short and long form in various languages (including English) and information on how to score the tool:

<http://ageing.anu.edu.au/iqcode/>

References

- **Tool Reference:** Jorm, A. F. (1994). A short form of the Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE): Development and cross-validation. *Psychological Medicine, 24*, 145-153.
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- Fuh, J. L., Teng, E. L., Lin, K.N., Larson, E. B., Wang, S. J., Liu, C. Y., Chou, P., Kuo, B. I. T., Liu, H. C. (1995). The Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) as a screening tool for dementia for a predominantly illiterate Chinese population. *Neurology, 45*, 92-96.
- Lim, H. J., Lim, J. P. P., Anthony, P., Yeo, D. H. H., & Sahadevan, S. (2003). Prevalence of cognitive impairment amongst Singapore's elderly Chinese: A community-based study using the ECAQ and IQCODE. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 18*, 142-148
- Sansoni, J., Marosszeky, N., Fleming, G., & Sansori, E. (2010). *Selecting Tools for ACAT Assessment: A Report for the Aged Care Assessment Program (ACAP) Expert Clinical Reference Group*. Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong. Report for the Aged Care Assessment Program, Department of Health and Ageing. Canberra.

IQCODE in Chinese

Fuh, J. L., Teng, E. L., Lin, K.N., Larson, E. B., Wang, S. J., Liu, C. Y., Chou, P., Kuo, B. I. T., Liu, H. C. (1995). The Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) as a screening tool for dementia for a predominantly illiterate Chinese population. *Neurology*, 45, 92-96.

Jorms & Korten 問卷 (IQCODE)

姓名: _____

ID NO.: _____

受訪者: _____

與當事人關係: 1 配偶

2 子女或其配偶

3 其他親屬: _____

4 朋友: _____

請大聲地讀給受訪者聽:

我希望您能記起____先生(太太)十年前的情形，來和他現在的情形相比較。十年前是指民國____年。總共認識有____年。

首先，我要請教您____先生(太太)記憶力方面的情形，包括他對現在的日常生活和以前所發生的事情的記憶力。請記住，我們主要是比較____先生(太太)現在和他十年前的情況。所以，假如他在十年前就常常忘記東西放在那裏，而現在仍然如此，就請您回答“沒什麼變化”。

和十年前相比較，
____先生(太太)現在：
好多了 好一點 沒什麼變化 差一點 差多了 不知道拒答

	1	2	3	4	5	9
1. 認得出家人和熟朋友的面孔	1	2	3	4	5	9
2. 記得家人和熟朋友的名子	1	2	3	4	5	9
3. 記得家人和熟朋友的職業、生日、住址	1	2	3	4	5	9
4. 認得最近發生的事情	1	2	3	4	5	9
5. 認得幾天前談話的內容	1	2	3	4	5	9
6. 話說到一半，就忘了要說什麼	1	2	3	4	5	9
7. 記得住址和電話	1	2	3	4	5	9
8. 記得今天是星期幾，是幾月份	1	2	3	4	5	9
9. 記得東西經常是放在什麼地方	1	2	3	4	5	9
10. 東西未歸回原位，仍能找得到	1	2	3	4	5	9

和十年前相比較，
 _____先生(太太)現在： 好多了 好一點 沒什麼變化 差一點 差多了 不知道拒答

	1	2	3	4	5	9
11. 能適應日常生活上的一些改變	1	2	3	4	5	9
12. 使用家常用具的能力 (如電視機, 鐵鏈等)	1	2	3	4	5	9
13. 會學習使用新的家常用具	1	2	3	4	5	9
14. 會學習新東西的能力	1	2	3	4	5	9
15. 能記住年輕及童年往事	1	2	3	4	5	9
16. 能記住年輕時所學的東西	1	2	3	4	5	9
17. 懂一些不常用的字	1	2	3	4	5	9
18. 懂報章雜誌上的文章	1	2	3	4	5	9
19. 懂電視上或書本中講的故事	1	2	3	4	5	9
20. 寫信表達的能力	1	2	3	4	5	9
21. 知道一些重要的歷史事件	1	2	3	4	5	9
22. 對日常生活事務自己會做決定	1	2	3	4	5	9
23. 會使用錢買東西	1	2	3	4	5	9
24. 處理財務的能力(如退休金, 到銀行)	1	2	3	4	5	9
25. 處理日常生活上的數字問題如: 知道要買多少食物; 知道朋友或家人上一次來訪後已經有多久了	1	2	3	4	5	9
26. 了解發生了什麼事, 並能想出適當的處理方式	1	2	3	4	5	9

總分: _____

Fuh, J. L., Teng, E. L., Lin, K.N., Larson, E. B., Wang, S. J., Liu, C. Y., Chou, P., Kuo, B. I. T., Liu, H. C. (1995). The Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) as a screening tool for dementia for a predominantly illiterate Chinese population. *Neurology*, 45, 92-96.