ASSESSING DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN FIVE PSYCHIATRIC POPULATIONS: A VALIDATION STUDY

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Abstract

Data from five psychiatric populations and a community sample are presented on the CES-D, a 20-item self-report depression symptom scale developed by the Center for Epidemiologic Studies. Results show that the scale is a sensitive tool for detecting depressive symptoms and change in symptoms over time in psychiatric populations, and that it agrees quite well with more lengthy self-report scales used in clinical studies and with clinician interview ratings. Although a symptom scale cannot differentiate between diagnostic groups, the CES-D has demonstrated its validity as a screening tool for detecting depressive symptoms in psychiatric populations.

**Keywords:** depression, psychiatric status rating scales, psychiatry

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