

This is a **Sample** version of the
**Disability Assessment
For Dementia (DAD)**

The **full version** of Disability Assessment For Dementia (DAD) comes without 'sample' watermark.

The full complete version includes –

- Overview information
- Scoring/ Administration instructions
- DAD Complete Scoring Assessment (10 sets of question criteria)
- DAD Psychometric Properties

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Disability Assessment For Dementia (DAD)

Overview

Introduction

The *Disability Assessment for dementia (DAD) Scale* was developed to fulfill the need for a disability measure designed specifically for community-dwelling individuals with dementia of the Alzheimer type (DAT). Such an instrument is essential to help clinicians and caregivers make decisions regarding the choice of suitable interventions and to monitor disease progression. In addition, as a research tool, it can be used to describe the functional characteristics of populations with DAT, the course of the disease and also as an outcome variable in intervention studies and clinical trials.

Objectives of the DAD

The objectives of the DAD Scale are to quantitatively measure functional abilities in activities of daily living (ADL) in individuals with cognitive impairments such as dementia and to help delineate areas of cognitive deficits which may impair performance in ADL. Basic and instrumental activities of daily living are examined in relation to executive skills to permit identification of the problematic areas. The primary aim is to have a standardized, valid, reliable and sensitive measure of functional disability in DAT and other dementias. Another objective is to obtain a French and English instrument which is short and easy to administer.

Target population

The DAD Scale is intended specifically for the assessment of disability in community residing individuals with cognitive deficits such as DAT and other dementias. This tool has not been designed to meet the specific needs of populations with physical disabilities (neuro-muscular deficits). In cases where an individual will present both cognitive and physical deficits which may impair function in ADL, this tool should not be used exclusively but rather in conjunction with another assessment of ADL designed for physical disabilities.

Components of the DAD

This measure of functional disability is based on the model of health proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). According to this model, functional disability refers to any restriction in the ability to perform an activity, a task or a behavior of every day life such as basic self-care or instrumental activities.

Functional disability is measured with the DAD Scale through the assessment of basic, instrumental and leisure activities.

The DAD Scale includes:

.Basic activities of daily living (activities that are important for self-care) which are dressing, hygiene, continence and eating.

.Instrumental activities of daily living (activities that are important for maintenance in a specific environment) which are meal preparation, telephoning, housework, taking care of finance and correspondence, going on an outing, taking medications and ability to stay safely at home.

.Leisure activities (activities that are beyond self maintenance and are for the purpose of recreation) which are assessed in terms of the interest that is shown towards these activities.

Since the objective of the DAD is also to understand the cognitive dimensions of disabilities in ADL, the activities of daily living have been subdivided and are assessed according to executive functions which have showed regression patterns in dementias. These are initiation, planning and organization, and effective performance.

.Initiation consists of the ability to decide and/or start an action. This requires spontaneity on the part of the individual and must be accomplished at an appropriate moment and place.

.Planning and organization consist of the ability to identify the different components of a task, to be able to structure them in an appropriate sequence, to elaborate a strategy for action and to be able to prepare the required material prior to the action. They also include the ability to monitor actions during the activity and thus involve problem solving and decision making abilities to make appropriate corrections when needed.

.Effective performance consists of the ability to complete an action. The quality of the performance with regards to whether the task is done in a safe and acceptable manner is also an important component.

For example: a person can be able to plan and complete the action but cannot initiate it.

Psychometric Properties

These properties were tested on individuals diagnosed of “probable” Alzheimer’s disease according to the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria (McKahn et al., 1984; Tierney et al., 1988) and their caregivers. The details of this study are described in the Gélinas et al. (1999) article.

.Validity: **Content validity** was established by a panel of experts and caregivers.

.Criterion-related (concurrent) validity has been established with *the Rapid Disability Rating Scale-2* ($r = -.85$, $n = 59$) and known-groups procedure. Results of the known-groups procedure indicated that severity of dementia, according to the GDS level, had an effect on DAD scores (F ratio = 21.24, $p \leq .05$), $n = 57$.

.Construct validity has been established with the *MMSE* ($r = .54$), $n = 55$.

.Reliability: **.Test-retest reliability:** ICC = .96 ($n = 45$)

.Interrater reliability: ICC = .95 ($n = 31$)

.Internal consistency: Cronbach’s alpha = .96 ($n = 59$)

.Estimates of responsiveness: S. Gauthier (unpublished data, 1994) has obtained preliminary estimates of the responsiveness of the DAD scale over a one year period. More recently, it has showed therapeutic sensitivity in pharmacological studies with metrifonate (Gélinas, Gauthier, Cyrus et al., *Neurology* 50 (suppl 4), 1998).

In addition, the scale was found not to have gender bias. Scores are not influenced by either age or education. The DAD is practical, short and easy to administer. It is available in both French and English. The DAD has also been translated in several languages (german, spanish, japanese,...) and is used in pharmacological studies at an international level.

This is the end of the DAD sample Overview. The full complete version has administration and scoring guide.

DISABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR DEMENTIA (DAD)

Name:			File No:
Date:	MMS:	GDS:	DAD:
Respondent:		Relationship:	
Specify all motor and sensory disorders:			
Rater:			Time:

During the past two weeks, did (name) _____, without help or reminder,

HYGIENE

SCORING: YES=1 NO=0 N/A=Not Applicable

Initiation	Planning & Organization	Effective Performance

Undertake to wash himself/herself or to take a bath or a shower
Undertake to brush his/her teeth or care for his/her dentures
Decide to care for his/her hair (wash and comb)
Prepare the water, towels, and soap for washing, taking a bath or a shower
Wash and dry completely all parts of his/her body safely
Brush his/her teeth or care for his/her dentures appropriately
Care for his/her hair (wash and comb)

DRESSING

Undertake to dress himself/herself		
Choose appropriate clothing (with regard to the occasion, neatness, the weather and color)		
Dress himself/herself in the appropriate order (undergarments, pants/dress, shoes)		
Dress himself/herself completely		
Undress himself/herself completely		

CONTINENCE

Decide to use the toilet at appropriate times		
Use the toilet without "accidents"		

EATING

Decide that he/she needs to eat		
Choose appropriate utensils and seasonings when eating		
Eat his/her meals at a normal pace and with appropriate manners		

MEAL PREPARATION

Undertake to prepare a light meal or snack for himself/herself		
Adequately plan a light meal or snack (ingredients, cookware)		
Prepare or cook a light meal or a snack safely		

TELEPHONING

Attempt to telephone someone at a suitable time		
Find and dial a telephone number correctly		
Carry out an appropriate telephone conversation		
Write and convey a telephone message adequately		

This is the end of the DAD sample assessment. The full complete version has 10 sets of question criteria.