A new simple score for assessing behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (Abe’s BPSD SCORE=ABS)

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Abstract

In addition to cognitive impairment, behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) are another important aspect of most dementia patients including post-stroke dementia. We attempted to create a new BPSD score for dementia with 10 BPSD items. This new simple BPSD score was compared to a standard-detailed BPSD score neuropsychiatric inventory (NPI) for a possible correlation (n=792) and a time to complete (n=136). Based on the clinical survey for local caregivers, a new BPSD score for dementia (ABS, Abe’s BPSD score) was newly created, in which each BPSD item was allotted by an already-weighted score (maximum 1–9) based on the frequency and severity, and was finalized with taking temporal occurrences into account. ABS was filled by the main caregiver with a full score of 44, was well correlated with NPI (r = 0.716, **p 0.01) in 792 AD patients (age 78.6 ± 7.0 years, MMSE 19.0 ± 5.9), and took a shorter time as only 56.8 ± 38.8 s (**p 0.01) than NPI score (132.7 ± 94.0 s) with 136 AD patients. A high inter-rater reliability was obtained (r = 0.964, **p 0.01) with a little smaller score (0.877 time) of ABS in secondary than the main caregivers. Thus ABS provides a new simple and quick test for BPSD assessment, with a good correlation to NPI but a shorter time, and with a high inter-rater reliability (Abe K et al.: J. Neurol. Sci. 2015; 350: 14-17).

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