Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE)

See also separate Screening for Dementia article.

This informant questionnaire can be very useful in the screening and evaluation of dementia.[1]-[2] When combined with cognitive tests such as the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE), an useful overview is obtained and hence sensitivity and specificity as a screening test can be improved.[3] Validity within primary and secondary care settings has been tested.[4, 5] A shortened 16-question form of the IQCODE has also been validated and is shown here.[6]

Each question is scored from 1 (much improved) to 5 (much worse). For the Short IQCODE, a cut-off point (average score) of 3.31/3.38 achieves a balance of sensitivity and specificity.[7]
Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE)
Short Form

Compared with 10 years ago how is this person at:

1. Remembering things about family and friends - eg, occupations, birthdays, addresses? Not much change
2. Remembering things that have happened recently? Not much change
3. Recalling conversations a few days later? Not much change
4. Remembering his/her address and telephone number? Not much change
5. Remembering what day and month it is? Not much change
6. Remembering where things are usually kept? Not much change
7. Remembering where to find things which have been put in a different place from usual? Not much change
8. Knowing how to work familiar machines around the house? Not much change
9. Learning to use a new gadget or machine around the house? Not much change
10. Learning new things in general? Not much change
11. Following a story in a book or on TV? Not much change
12. Making decisions on everyday matters? Not much change
13. Handling money for shopping? Not much change
14. Handling financial matters - eg, the pension, dealing with the bank? Not much change
15. Handling other everyday arithmetic problems - eg, knowing how much food to buy, knowing how long between visits from family or friends? Not much change
16. Using his/her intelligence to understand what's going on and to reason things through? Not much change

Calculate

Average score per question =

Short Form of the Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (Short IQCODE) by A. F. Jorm, Centre for Mental Health Research, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

Note: as used in published studies, the IQCODE was preceded by questions to the informant on the subject's sociodemographic characteristics and physical health.

Further reading & references

7. Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE); Australian National University

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<th>Author:</th>
<th>Dr Hayley Willacy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document ID:</td>
<td>9309 (v6)</td>
<td>Last Checked:</td>
<td>28/01/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Review:</td>
<td>26/01/2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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