

Screening of early dementia

Organiser: Laura Hokkanen, PhD

University of Helsinki, Finland

Finnish Neuropsychological Society

The symposium will focus on early detection of dementia with special emphasis on cognitive measures and the CERAD battery. The Neuropsychological Battery developed in the late 1980s by the Consortium to Establish a Registry for Alzheimer's Disease (CERAD) includes tests of memory, language, constructional praxis, executive function and orientation. The Finnish version (including the Clock Drawing Test) was introduced in 1999 to be used for screening of cognitive decline in elderly patients. However, the normative data for the Finnish population has been limited. During the recent years both hospital based and community based data has been collected and our next step is to re-evaluate the cut off scores recommended for screening cognitive decline in Finland. The battery in Finland is used by not only neuropsychologists but also other health care professionals which poses extra demands on the clarity and reliability of the norms and test instructions.

As CERAD is a method widely used in different countries in Europe and beyond, it allows a cross-cultural comparison of cognitive performance of elderly people. A brief overview will be made across published norms for e.g. Korean, Brazilian, African American, German/Austrian/Swiss and Finnish populations.

Prof Monsch from University of Basel Switzerland will also discuss other cognitive markers for presymptomatic Alzheimer's disease.

Presentations (90 mins total)

Laura Hokkanen, Ph.D, Dept of Psychology, University of Helsinki, Finland:

The CERAD experience shared: norms across countries and cultures

Tuomo Hänninen, Ph.D, Dept of Neurology, University of Kuopio, Finland:

A normative study of the CERAD neuropsychological assessment battery in a Finnish elderly population,

Mona Sotaniemi, MA, Dept of Psychology, University of Helsinki, Finland:

CERAD-test battery in the prediction of dementia in MCI patients

Andreas U. Monsch, Professor, PhD, Neuropsychology Center

University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

In search of presymptomatic cognitive markers of Alzheimer's disease.