Screening for Mental Disorders in Asylum Seekers

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The need for an asylum seeker-specific mental health screening tool

Mental health screening of asylum-seekers is important for 4 reasons:

a) To facilitate appropriate and timely treatment
b) To expedite the resolution of refugee status determination *
c) To replace *ad hoc* and subjective mental health evaluations with a validated tool that can be applied uniformly by a range of workers in the field
d) To provide an objective measure to advocate for greater support throughout the refugee determination process where relevant.

* Aron, 1992; Cummins, 2013; Steel, Frommer, & Silove, 2004; Tay et al., 2013
Aim:
To develop a mental health screening tool for non-mental health workers
  - Brief and easily administered
  - Sensitive
  - Simple

3 phases:
1. Tool development
2. Pilot process
3. Qualitative feedback concerning length, interpretation, fidelity
### Results (1) \( N=128 \)

Predictive accuracy (ROC analyses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SN (%)</th>
<th>SP (%)</th>
<th>Area Under Curve</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>95% C.I.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 2 ‘Yes’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDD</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.69 – .85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.69 – .85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDD &amp;/or PTSD</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.70 – .86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Results (2)

## Predictive accuracy (ROC analyses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>≥ 3 ‘Yes’</th>
<th>SN (%)</th>
<th>SP (%)</th>
<th>Area Under Curve</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>95% C.I.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDD</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>.80</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.71 – .88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.73 – .89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDD &amp;/or PTSD</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>&lt; .0001</td>
<td>.74 – .89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

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