

Memorial Delirium Assessment Scale (MDAS)

Description

The MDAS is a 10 item scale used to assess for the presence and severity of delirium. Items are rated on a four-point scale from 0 (none) to 3 (severe) depending on the level of impairment, yielding a maximum score of 30. A score of 13 or more is strongly suggestive of a diagnosis of delirium.

Validity

The MDAS has been shown to have high inter-rater reliability (0.92), internal consistency (0.91) and correlates highly with other commonly used tools such as the MMSE (Spearman rank correlation 0.91, $p < 0.0001$) and the DRS (Spearman rank 0.88, $p < 0.0001$).

The MDAS reliably differentiates between delirium and other common cognitive impairment disorders.

Interpretation

A score of 13 or more has been recommended for a diagnosis of delirium, with a sensitivity of 70.59 % and a specificity of 93.75 %. The higher the score, the more severe the delirium.

Developer

Breitbart W et al.

References

Breitbart W, et al. J Pain Symptom Manage. 1997 Mar;13(3):128-37.

Instructions to Client

Rate the severity of the following symptoms of delirium based on current interaction with subject or assessment of his/her behavior or experience over last several hours (as indicated

in each item.)