

Abstract

The Hong Kong List Learning Test (HKLLT) is a newly developed Chinese memory test designed for the assessment of the processes and organizational strategies involved in learning verbal information. The test consists of two different 16 two-character Chinese word-lists, namely the random and blocked conditions. Both conditions of the word-list were administered to 25 nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) patients with MRI proven bilateral temporal lobe lesions and 25 matched normal controls. Receiver operating characteristics (ROC) analysis and discriminant analysis were performed to examine the test performance of the HKLLT. Results indicated that the HKLLT was a highly valid and reliable instrument for identifying patients with temporal lobe amnesia. Findings of ROC analysis revealed that the optimal cutoff scores of scales and subscales of the HKLLT were as follows: total learning ≤ 17 , total delayed recall ≤ 10 , and discrimination score $\leq 62.50\%$ in the random condition; and total learning ≤ 19 , total delayed recall ≤ 15 , discrimination score $\leq 62.50\%$, and total cued recall ≤ 25 in the blocked condition. It was proposed that these optimal cutoff scores could be used for diagnostic purposes in identifying the memory impairments of patients with temporal lobe lesions. In addition, results of discriminant analysis indicated that the overall levels of correct classification for their respective patient and normal control group memberships of the whole sample were 92% in the blocked condition and 78% in the random condition, respectively. It was concluded that the blocked condition of the HKLLT rather than the random one had overall better performances. Nonetheless, both conditions of the test were recommended for use together so as to enhance the clinical utility of the HKLLT in clinical diagnosis.