Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and Validation of a Questionnaire for Analyzing Real-life Falls in Long-term Care Captured on Video

Version: 2  Date: 15 January 2013

Reviewer: Jian Sheng Chen

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This validation study of a fall video analysis questionnaire (FVAQ) concludes that the FVAQ is a useful tool for revealing fall circumstances and has good reliability (reproducibility). However, validity of the FVAQ is also important but has not been assessed in the study. For example, perceived site of the greatest risk for injury based on a video reading might not be correct. This could lead to wrong conclusion in a fall-related injury study. A good fall assessment tool should have both good reliability and good validity. Also, the reliability in this study may have been inflated by calculating the Kappa coefficient based on video readings from two three-member teams rather than two individual observers. Moreover, the results might be influenced by quality of the videos.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

It will be good if this study can be carried out based on readings from individuals on good quality videos with comprehensive fall incident reports. So, the results of reliability and validity (against fall incident report) are directly related to the FVAQ and can be used to compare with other fall assessment tools. Results from readings of two three-member teams may be used to demonstrate ways of improving the reliability.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The authors should consider assessing impacts of video quality by comparing readings from poor to good quality videos.

- Discretionary Revisions

A good example of the FVAQ’s application in the discussion should add weights to the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.