

# A Framework for Rating Scale Development: Example from the Depression Inventory Development Project

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The Depression Inventory Development program can serve as a model for development and validation of new rating scales



equently Almost all of the time/ Always

1

2

3

4

ITEM SCORE:





Depression Inventory The goal of the Development project is to develop a comprehensive and psychometrically sound rating scale for MDD that reflects current diagnostic criteria and conceptualizations of depression. Using a reciprocal, iterative field between testing process and psychometric analysis and drawing upon expertise of international researchers in depression, a protocol was developed for the creation of new items and field testing in depressed patients (1).



### METHODS

Classical test theory, item response theory and Rasch measurement theory were applied to assess the psychometric properties of the DID items and determine which should be removed, modified or advanced.). We encourage evaluation using all three methods, as they provide complementary information that should be considered in evaluating item performance. Participants were also administered the MADRS that allowed DID items to be evaluated against existing "gold-standard" Data were managed on the Brain-CODE platform (3, www.braincode.ca) as part of the Canadian Biomarker Integration Network in Depression (CAN-BIND) (4)

### **DID Conceptual Framework**



### Item development (IRT)



### RESULTS

The DID scale has completed three iterations, with 19 items identified for inclusion in final scale (2)



These displayed measurement properties, including items good unidimensionality and acceptable item-level goodness-of-fit statistics, suggesting that all items contributed to the same underlying construct. DID items also showed sensitivity to change following 8-week antidepressant treatment.

### CONCLUSIONS

Conventions for administering the scale have been developed and we are planning validation studies of the current 19-item DID scale, including aspects of reliability (internal consistency, inter-rater, test-retest) and validity (concurrent, discriminant, convergent). The ultimate goal is to develop a validated measure to detect change in randomized, controlled trials of individuals with MDD. A patient reported version of the scale is also being developed based on the clinician version. The strategies adopted by the DID program, as an empirically-driven and collaborative process, provide a framework for rating scale development and validation in other therapeutic areas as well.



## Sensitivity to change in open label trial of antidepressant treatment (CAN-BIND)

response to treatment

#### REFERENCES

1 Vaccarino et al, Innov Clin Neurosci. (2016);13(9–10):20–31 2 Vaccarino et al, Innov Clin Neurosci. (2020) 17(7-9):30-40. 3 Vaccarino et al., Front Neuroinform. (2018) 12:28. 4 Lam et al. BMC Psychiatry. (2016) 16:105.



The authors declare no conflict on interest.

## Contact us if you are interested in learning more about DID project







# Quality of Life Across Neurodegenerative and Major Depressive Disorders

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A shared data management platform facilitates pooling of data across disorders and connecting projects to provide new insights







Establishment common data of elements (CDEs) within large scale research studies is a critical step toward enabling consistency in data collection and optimizing the ability of investigators to analyze pooled participant-level data across brain disorders.

CDEs are supported in large scale research programs, including the Brain-CODE (1,2) and Pilot Platforms (www.indocsystems.com). In the present study, CDEs from the Ontario Brain Institute's Integrated Discovery Program were pooled across studies to better understand Quality of Life in neurological disease (Alzheimer's disease/amnesic mild cognitive impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cerebrovascular disease, frontotemporal dementia, and Parkinson's disease) (3).

### METHODS

The present study used de-identified, consented data collected by the Ontario Neurodegenerative Disease Research Initiative (ONDRI) (4) and Canadian Biomarker Integration Network in Depression (CAN-BIND) (5). Data included standardized demographic information, WHO-QoL-BREF (World Health Organization Quality-of-Life Scale), QIDS-SR (Quick Inventory) of Depressive Symptomatology Self-Report) and GAD-7 (Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7) assessments in Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive

## Pilot: Platform for Data Integration and sharing



## QoL in neurodegenerative disease and MDD: Disability paradox vs negative cognitive bias?

impairment (AD/MCI, n = 126), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, n = 40), cerebrovascular disease (CVD, n = 161), frontotemporal dementia (FTD, n = 53) and Parkinson's disease (PD, n = 140), major depressive disorder (MDD), as well as age-matched healthy controls (n=157). These data were collected and stored on Brain-CODE (www.braincode.ca). ANOVA was used to compare WHO-QoL-BREF scores across cohorts, followed by linear regression models to examine the influence of comorbid depression.

### RESULTS

All WHO-QoL-BREF domain scores for the MDD cohort were significantly worse than healthy controls and all ND cohorts (all p < 0.05). For the NDD cohorts, Physical QoL was significantly lower than controls for ALS (61.18+20.26), FTD (73.64+19.88), PD (66.50+16.31) (all p<0.05), but not AD/MCI (80.50+14.32, p=0.97) and CVD (75.97+15.57, p=0.088). Linear regression found an association between depression, anxiety and QoL. Both the QIDS and GAD-7 were significant predictors of QoL, with higher QIDS and GAD-7 scores contributing to decreased Physical (B=-0.45 and -0.17, respectively), Psychological (B=-0.45 and -0.27, respectively), Social (B=-0.25 and -0.17, respectively) and Environmental (B=-0.26 and -0.19, respectively) QoL (all p<0.01). Differences were noted across ND cohorts

### CONCLUSIONS

The present study highlights the negative impact of depression on QoL [6]. Interestingly, physical QoL was rated better in the ALS and PD cohorts than MDD, despite the physical challenges experienced (i.e., the disability paradox) [7]. These findings also demonstrate the value shared data management platforms to support cross-disease research and CDEs



## Depression is a mediator of QoL in neurodegenerative disease

Control

ALS

	Physical Health			Psychological Health			Social Relationships			Environment Health		
VARIABLE	В	R <sup>2</sup> channe	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	В	R <sup>2</sup> change	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	В	R <sup>2</sup> change	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	В	R <sup>2</sup> change	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted
Age	0.07	0.04**	0.03	-0.01			0.06			0.07		
Sex	0.01			-0.2	0.02*	0.01	0.14**	0.03**	0.03	0.01	0.04**	0.03
Education	-0.02			-0.01			-0.03			0.10*		
QIDS-SR	-0.45**	0.31**	0.34	-0.46**	0.40**	0.42	-0.24**	0.13**	0.15	-0.26**	0.16**	0.19
GAD-7	-0.17**			-0.27**			-0.17**			-0.19**		

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1 Vaccarino et al., Front Neuroinform. (2018) 12:28. 2 Vaccarino et al., Front Psych. (2022) 13:13. doi: 10.3389 3 Stuss et al., Nat. Rev. Drug Discov. (2015) 14, 295–296. 4 Farhan et al., Can J Neurol Sci. (2017) 44:196–202 5 Lam et al. BMC Psychiatry. (2016) 16:105. 6 Disner et al., Nature Reviews Neuroscience, (2011) 12(8), 467–477. 7 Albrecht and Divlieger, Soc Sci Med. (1999) 48(8):977–88.



Physical Heal

0.05 0.40\*\* 0.33 -0.33\*\* 0.17\*\* 0.24 -0.02 0.15\* 0.12 -0.36\*\* 0.22\*\* 0.24

## Contact us if you would like to learn more about data platforms

The authors declare no conflict on interest.



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