

Early detection of hazardous drinking

construction and validation of a screening questionnaire for French GPs FACE

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Background

- French GPs needed to get out the “alcoholism” model, to take into account the alcohol-related risk
- Screening strategies were based upon lab tests
- A qualitative study, carried out in 2001 with GPs, showed that
 - AUDIT, as a self-answered questionnaire for the waiting room, isn’t adapted for French GPs, who work by themselves in their practice
 - There’s a need for a short interview questionnaire
- Many questionnaires exist, but only CAGE and AUDIT have been validated in French
- Questionnaires for hazardous or harmful drinking detection often share some questions

Design

- Nine questions picked out of still existing questionnaires (AUDIT, CAGE, 5-shot questionnaire, TWEAK)
- Objectives : choose the best questions to elaborate a short questionnaire (five questions) with as good performances as AUDIT's for detecting
 - Alcohol hazardous or harmful drinking
 - Alcohol abuse and dependence
 - In both genders
- Comparison of
 - a gold standard (hazardous drinking and/or alcohol abuse or dependence, as diagnosed by a trained doctor through a structured interview)
 - AUDIT (answered in the waiting room)
 - The nine questions asked during the consultation by the GPs participating in the study
- For each diagnosis, find the best combination of questions through a logistic regression analysis

« hazardous drinking » and « abuse or dependence » in this study

Hazardous drinking

- men : more than 21 « standard drinks » a week
- Women : more than 14 drinks a week
- In France a standard drink contains 10 grammes of pure ethanol

Alcohol abuse and dependence

- DSM-IV criteria

The 9 Questions tested

- 1- How often do you have a drink containing alcohol ?
(5 answers possible) • AUDIT, 5-shot
- 2- How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking ? (5 answers possible) • AUDIT, 5-shot
- 3- How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion ? (5 answers possible) • AUDIT
- 4- Have your friends or relatives worried or complained about your drinking ? (Yes/ No) • CAGE, 5-shot, TWEAK
- 5- Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking ? (Yes/ No) • CAGE, 5-shot
- 6-Do you sometimes take a drink first thing in the morning ? (Yes/ No) • CAGE, 5-shot, TWEAK
- 7-How many drinks does it take before you begin to feel the first effects of alcohol ? (Open question) • TWEAK
- 8- Are there times when you drink and afterwards you can't remember what you said or did ? (Yes/ No) • TWEAK
- 9- Have you ever felt the need to cut down on your drinking ? (Yes/ No) • CAGE, TWEAK

Statistical method

- For each diagnosis
 - Hazardous drinking (males)
 - Hazardous drinking (females)
 - Abuse and dependence (both genders)
- Analysis conducted step by step
- Logistical regression through SAS software

Results (1)

Hazardous drinking, men : example of the process of regression step by step

- Selection of *Frequency of excessive drinking*
- Selection of *Frequency of drinking*
- Selection of *Usual quantity*
- **Withdrawal** of *Frequency of excessive drinking*
- Selection of *Friends and relatives*
- No other questions remain

So are kept in the selection

- *Frequency of drinking* (OR 6.8 and CI 95% [3.3-14.2])
- *Usual quantity* (OR 3.2 and CI 95% [1.8-5.8])
- *Friends and relatives* (OR 6.8 and CI 95% [1.1-10.9])

Results (2)

males

Hazardous drinking

females

Abuse or dependence

- *Frequency of drinking*
OR 6.8
CI 95% [3.3-14.2]
- *Usual quantity*
OR 3.2
CI 95% [1.8-5.8]
- *Friends and relatives*
OR 6.8
CI 95% [1.1-10.9]

- *Frequency of drinking*
OR 5.8
CI 95% [2.9-11.7]
- *Frequency of excessive drinking*
OR 1.9
CI 95% [1.0-3.8]
- *Friends and relatives*
OR 7.7
CI 95% [1.5-38.5]
- *Tolerance*
OR 1.6
CI 95% [1.1-2.3]

- *Frequency of excessive drinking*
OR 3.2
CI 95% [1.8-5.4]
- *Usual quantity*
OR 4.4
CI 95% [2.6-7.4]
- *Eye opener*
OR 31.3
CI 95% [4.6-200]
- *Amnesia*
OR 4.5
CI 95% [1.5-13.3]

Results (3)

males

Hazardous drinking

females

Abuse or
dependence

- *Frequency of drinking*
OR 6.8
CI 95% [3.3-14.2]
- *Usual quantity*
OR 3.2
CI 95% [1.8-5.8]
- *Friends and relatives*
OR 6.8
CI 95% [1.1-10.9]

- *Frequency of drinking*
OR 5.8
CI 95% [2.9-11.7]
- *Frequency of excessive drinking*
OR 1.9
CI 95% [1.0-3.8]
- *Friends and relatives*
OR 7.7
CI 95% [1.5-38.5]
- *Tolerance*
OR 1.6
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- *Frequency of excessive drinking*
OR 3.2
CI 95% [1.8-5.4]
- *Usual quantity*
OR 4.4
CI 95% [2.6-7.4]
- *Eye opener*
OR 31.3
CI 95% [4.6-200]
- *Amnesia*
OR 4.5
CI 95% [1.5-13.3]

Results (4)

- 1- How often do you have a drink containing alcohol ?**
- 2- How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking ?**
- 3- Have your friends or relatives worried or complained about your drinking ?**
- 4- Do you sometimes take a drink first thing in the morning ?**
- 5- Are there times when you drink and afterwards you can't remember what you said or did ?**

Results (5)

<i>FACE informative values</i>					
<i>For heavy drinking (men)</i>					
Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Se + Sp
3	95.1	61.3	35.8	98.2	156.4
4	87.8	74	43.4	96.4	161.8
5	68.3	79.6	43.1	91.7	147.9
6	63.4	82.9	45.6	90.9	146.3
<i>For heavy drinking (women)</i>					
Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Se + Sp
2	100	73.3	28.1	100	173.3
3	84.4	84	35.5	98.1	168.4
4	53.1	93.2	44.7	95	146.3
5	40.6	94.1	41.9	93.8	134.7
<i>For alcohol abuse or dependence (both genders)</i>					
Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Se + Sp
7	77.8	92.2	40.6	98.4	170
8	75	95.8	55.1	98.2	170.8
9	69.4	97.3	64.1	97.9	166.7
10	58.3	98.5	72.4	97.2	156.8

FACE

*Formule pour
Apprécier la
Consommation par
Entretien*

or

*Fast
Alcohol
Consumption
Evaluation*

- **How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?**

Answers :

- 0 = « never »,
- 1 = « once a month or less »,
- 2 = « 2 to 4 times a month »,
- 3 = « 2 or 3 times a week »,
- 4 = « 4 times a week or more »

- **How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day ?**

answers :

- 0 = « one or two »,
- 1 = « three or four »,
- 2 = « five or six »,
- 3 = « seven to nine »,
- 4 = « ten or more »

- **Have your friends or relatives worried or complained about your drinking ?**
- **Do you sometimes take a drink first thing in the morning ?**
- **Are there times when you drink and afterwards you can't remember what you said or did ?**

for these three last questions : no = 0, yes = 4

FACE

Formule pour
Apprécier la
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or

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Alcohol
Consumption
Evaluation

- **A quelle fréquence vous arrive-t-il de consommer des boissons contenant de l'alcool ?**

Réponses :

- 0 = « jamais »,
- 1 = « une fois par mois ou moins »,
- 2 = « 2 à 4 fois par mois »,
- 3 = « 2 à 3 fois par semaine »,
- 4 = « 4 fois ou plus par semaine »

- **Combien de verres standards buvez-vous au cours d'une journée ordinaire où vous buvez de l'alcool ?**

Réponses :

- 0 = « un ou deux »,
- 1 = « trois ou quatre »,
- 2 = « cinq ou six »,
- 3 = « sept à neuf »,
- 4 = « dix ou plus »

- **Votre entourage vous a-t-il fait des remarques au sujet de votre consommation d'alcool ?**
- **Avez-vous déjà eu besoin d'alcool le matin pour vous sentir en forme ?**
- **Vous arrive-t-il de boire et de ne plus vous souvenir ensuite de ce que vous avez pu dire ou faire ?**

Pour ces trois dernières questions : non = 0, oui = 4

FACE

scoring and interpretation

- Each question scores 0 to 4
- Total score ranges 0 to 20

- For men
 - score under 5 : no or low risk
 - scores 5 to 8 : probable hazardous drinking
 - scores over 8 : probable dependence
- For women
 - score under 4 : no or low risk
 - scores 4 to 8 : probable hazardous drinking
 - scores over 8 : probable dependence

Compared *FACE* and *AUDIT* Informative Values

			Se %	Spe %	PPV %	NPV %
Heavy drinking	AUDIT	Men (score >7)	76.9	84.3	52.6	94.2
		Women (score >6)	62.5	94.7	55.6	96
	FACE	Men (score >5)	87.8	74.0	43.4	96.4
		Women (score >4)	84.4	84.0	35.5	98.1
Abuse or dependence	AUDIT	Both genders (score >12)	69.4	98	71.4	97.8
	FACE	Both genders (score > 8)	75.0	95.8	55.1	98.2

Conclusion

- Hard work !
- But useful : FACE has been compared with AUDIT and AUDIT-Health questionnaire (Daepfen) and is much more acceptable by the French (and Belgian, and Swiss francophone) GPs: less time needed, less errors in scoring...
- Seems to be useful to keep three levels (in comparison with short versions of AUDIT)
- And it is now the reference questionnaire in training GPs in EIBI in France – and seem to be adopted by them
- A computerized version has been proposed as a reminder