

A Preliminary Validation of the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) in the Hong Kong

Speaker: George Cheung

Abstract

The present study attempted a preliminary validation of the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) in the Hong Kong. In-depth assessment was conducted on 43 identified batterers and 46 control male subjects. Results suggested that the B-SAFER could correctly classify 95% of the cases. Scores relating to the current situation were found to be particularly important in predicting intimate partner violence. The concurrent validity of the B-SAFER was demonstrated by its correlation with the Conflict Tactics Scale scores. Findings were discussed in the context of developing screening tool in the community setting with the guided clinical approach.

Searching for the cognition-behavior link in dementia caregiving through cognitive behavioral therapy

Speaker: Dr. Pun Shuk-han

Abstract

Caregiving for people with dementia is mainly assumed by family members. Beside physical exhaustion, the tangle of love, stress, frustration and self-blame arising from such an intimate care has been revealed through research and personal sharing. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) developed in North America has been found effective in enriching not just the skills and knowledge of caregivers for proper and effective care but also their cognitive ability in understanding, analyzing and resolving conflicts, dilemmas and grief encountering in their caring role. A prototype program, called Cognitive-behavior Group Intervention Program (CBGIP) developed by the REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health) Project from the U.S. was tried out in a group of dementia caregivers in Hong Kong in 2007. Through participant observations and focus group meetings, this study aims to distill the link between cognition and behavior in dementia caregiving given the uncertainties, attributions and burdens experienced by the caregivers. While participant observations help evaluate how CBT works or does not work (its internal validity), focus group meetings help uncover what is relevant or meaningful in understanding caregiving within specific ecological contexts (its construct validity). Based on these process and outcome measures, while its group approach has enabled caregivers to find emotional support from each other and its educational component has enriched their knowledge, the internal and construct validity of the whole program has not been adequate ascertained. A number of indigenous and exogenous factors that mediate its implementation and outcomes have been identified. The identification and understanding of these factors are critical to policy and service formation that could help enhance the self-efficacy and well-being of caregivers.