Family Knowledge of Alzheimer's Test (FKAT)

Description
The FKAT is a 22 item true/false instrument used to assess family knowledge regarding Alzheimer's Disease.

Validity
Content validity was assessed from a review of the literature and by a panel of gerontological nurses expert in the care of AD patients.

Reliability
Test-retest reliability with 12 family members and a 1 month interval was .82. Internal consistency reliability was KR 21 (N=50) = .61. In the FIC intervention trial, internal consistency reliability with 140 family members was .53.

Development History
FKAT was derived from the 33 item Knowledge of Alzheimer's Test (KAT). The KAT test was administered to individual staff of the nursing home and was divided into three subscales to determine the individual level of knowledge possessed regarding 1) the etiologic pathology of AD; 2) the signs and symptoms of AD; and 3) the treatment/care of Alzheimer's patients. The original KAT contained 20 items and was developed at the Dementia Clinic, Department of Neurology, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. It was pretested using parallel forms with 20 nursing home staff and yielded a reliability coefficient of .80. Because high scores were consistently obtained, it appeared that the instrument did not discriminate levels of knowledge, therefore, the instrument was revised to include 33 items.