Knowledge of Alzheimer's Test (KAT)

Description
The KAT is a 33 item true/false instrument used to assess the information individual staff possess regarding Alzheimer's Disease. The questions three areas of knowledge regarding 1) the etiologic pathology of AD; 2) the signs and symptoms of AD; and 3) the treatment/care of Alzheimer's patients. The total score is determined by the number of correct answers.

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
The original 20 item tool was pretested using parallel forms with 20 nursing home staff, yielding a reliability coefficient of 0.80. Because consistently high scores were obtained with pretesting, the instrument was revised to include 33 items. With the revised test, the internal consistency reliability coefficient for the total score was 0.54 (this low value may have resulted from incorrectly calculating alpha). More recently, using data from the Family Involvement in Care research, internal consistency reliability was found to be 0.82 (N=843). All item-total correlations were positive, ranging from 0.08 to 0.67.

Note: We've found that this instrument has distinguished between groups in reasonable ways, e.g., RNs score significantly higher than nursing assistants.

Development History
The original KAT tool contained 20 questions and was developed at the Dementia Clinic, Department of Neurology, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Scoring: Count the number of correct answers.

Knowledge of Alzheimer's Test Subparts

Subscale	Items
Signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's	1,2,4,7,8,13,20,30,31
Treatment or care of AD patients	3,5,6,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,23,24,25,27,32
Etiologic pathology	19,21,22,26,28,29,33