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USING THE IOWA SCREENING BATTERY FOR MENTAL DECLINE
AS A PREDICTOR OF FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT

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Dementia is said to occur in at least 20% of the population aged 85 and older and is rising to almost epidemic proportions as the average age of the population in the United States continues to increase. Characteristically, dementia is manifested through memory impairment. These memory deficits along with other cognitive deficits together render the individual at least somewhat disabled in social and occupational functioning. While there are many neuropsychological batteries which measure cognitive abilities and functional impairment, there has been no thorough consideration of how a cognitive screening battery might predict an individual's functional status. This study examines the Iowa Screening Battery for Mental Decline (ISBMD) and its capabilities to act as a predictor of functional impairment. Functional impairment is being measured using the Activities of Daily Living Scale (ADL), the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living Scale (IADL), and the Functional Independence Measure (FIM). Subsequent statistical analyses will determine whether a significant correlation exists between the ISBMD and the ADL, IADL, and FIM scores. A stepwise linear discriminant function will then be performed in order to determine which, if any, sections of the ISBMD can more accurately predict different variables of functional impairment. The results of these statistical procedures will be presented at the conference.