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## VALIDITY OF THE INTERMED COMPLEXITY ASSESSMENT WITH OLDER PATIENTS IN A JAPANESE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The purpose of this study was to investigate the cross-cultural validity of the Japanese version of the INTERMED assessment instrument, designed to evaluate bio-psycho-social complexity of patient populations. Patient complexity is an important variable in relation to effectiveness of treatments and health-related expenses. And in the current investigation, the age variable contributed to complexity. **Method:** The INTERMED was applied to 56 consecutively admitted patients with a mean age of 73.4 years old. A two-stage cluster analysis was then employed. **Results:** This revealed three subtypes of patients: (1) males with comparatively low levels of complexity, (2) females mainly with biological indicators of complexity, and (3) multi-domain complex patients. Cluster 3 patients had significantly longer lengths of hospital stay, greater mortality, and the higher medical charges than the other two groups. **Conclusions:** These findings suggest that at-risk, complex patients in Japan can be validly identified by the INTERMED thus supporting cross-cultural generalizability of the instrument.

**Keywords:** Bio-Psycho-Social screening, Delivery of Health Care, Health Services Needs and Demand, INTERMED

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