

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**CONCURRENT VALIDITY AND EXPLORATORY  
FACTOR ANALYSIS OF THE MALAY VERSION OF  
CENTER FOR EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES-DEPRESSION  
SCALE (CESD) AMONG MALAYSIAN ADOLESCENTS**

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**Abstract**

**Objectives:** The objective of this study is to validate the Malay version of the Centre for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression scale (CESD) among adolescents. **Methods:** Nine hundred and thirty-one adolescents completed the Malay version of CESD and Hopkins Symptom Checklist-depression scale (HSCL-depression). **Results:** Results showed that the internal consistency of both the scale as a whole and the subscales was highly consistent. The concurrent validity was established by examining the relationship between CESD with the HSCL-depression scale. It showed a significant correlation between the two scales. The factor structure was similar to that observed in previous studies in other samples. Three factors were extracted, which accounted for 48.4% of the variance: a depressive affect factor; a positive affect factor and somatic symptoms factor which were combined with interpersonal items. **Conclusion:** The Malay version of CESD with 20 items has satisfactory psychometric properties and can be used for Malaysian adolescents. *ASEAN Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 17 (1): January – June 2016: XX XX.*

**Keywords:** CESD, Adolescents, Malaysia, Validity, Factor Analysis

**Introduction**

CESD is one of the most-used screening tools for depression among adolescents in Malaysia. Although CESD is not recommended as an individual diagnostic tool, this tool is widely used for the assessment and screening of depressive symptoms and is consistent with the DSM-IV diagnosis of major depression [1]. CESD is a 20-item self-report instrument to determine the frequency and the severity of current various depressive symptoms on a four-step Likert-scale. The score range of the CESD ranges between 0 and 60, with a cut-off score of 27 indicating high risk of developing depression [2].

Many studies were conducted to analyze the

psychometric properties of CESD among adolescents in different countries [3-6]. However, previous research on the CESD has some limitations. First, few studies investigated the screening properties of the CESD in non-English populations, and their results have been inconsistent [5,7,6]. Second, although the Malay version of the CESD had previously been used for several studies, it has never been systematically validated within a community adolescent sample [8, 9]. Only one study was found to establish the reliability and validity of the translated version into Malay language [10]. Mazlan and Ahmad [10] surveyed a sample of female prisoners and found satisfactory validity and reliability for the Malay version of CESD. Three factors were extracted, accounting for 42.2% of the