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Validity of alcohol use disorder identification test - Korean revised version for screening alcohol use disorder according to DSM-5 Criteria

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Background: The Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) has been used widely to identify alcohol use disorder (AUD). This study evaluated the validity of the AUDIT-Korean Revised Version (AUDIT-KR) for screening AUD according to DSM-5 criteria.

Methods: This research was conducted with 443 subjects who visited the Chungnam National University Hospital for a comprehensive medical examination. We divided subjects into two groups according to DSM-5 criteria: the case group, which included AUD patients (120 men and 21 women), and the control group, which included 146 men and 156 women. Subjects in both groups completed the AUDIT-KR themselves. The appropriate cut-off values, sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values of the AUDIT-KR were evaluated.

Results: The mean (\pm standard deviation) AUDIT-KR scores in the case group were 14.83 (\pm 5.28) points in men and 11.24 (\pm 3.68) points in women. The mean AUDIT-KR scores in the control group were 5.36 (\pm 4.35) points in men and 2.01 (\pm 2.73) points in women. The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (95% CI) of the AUDIT-KR for identifying AUD was 0.884 (0.840–0.920) in men and 0.962 (0.923–0.985) in women. The optimal cut-off value of the AUDIT-KR was 10 points for men (sensitivity, 81.90%; specificity, 81.33%; positive predictive value, 77.2%; negative predictive value, 85.3%) and 5 points for women (sensitivity, 100.00%; specificity, 88.54%; positive predictive value, 52.6%; negative predictive value, 100.0%).

Conclusion: The AUDIT-KR has high reliability and validity for identifying AUD according to DSM-5 criteria.