

Introduction

- The growing diversity in our aging population has implications for our healthcare system – specifically the workforce’s preparedness to provide culturally responsive care to underserved, ethnically diverse older adults.
- A number of simple tests have been introduced to quickly screen patients for cognitive status.
- Among these, the Clock Drawing Test is frequently cited as a rapid sensitive screen for cognitive impairment. Yet, little is known regarding how patient education level might affect patient performance on this test.

Purpose

- To determine the impact of education level on the performance of the clock drawing test in older adult patients

Methods

- This descriptive study using a retrospective medical chart audit was performed on patients who received annual wellness exams or screening for memory disorders at a Federally Qualified Health Center affiliated with an academic hospital in California.
- Patient education level was defined as less or greater than eighth grade level.
- Data included patient age, gender, ethnicity, and language fluency.
- Patients who were unable to successfully perform the clock draw test were further screened using word recall.
- Clock drawing test materials were available in English, Spanish, and other languages.

Figures

Fig 1. Education Level of those **unable** to do clock drawing

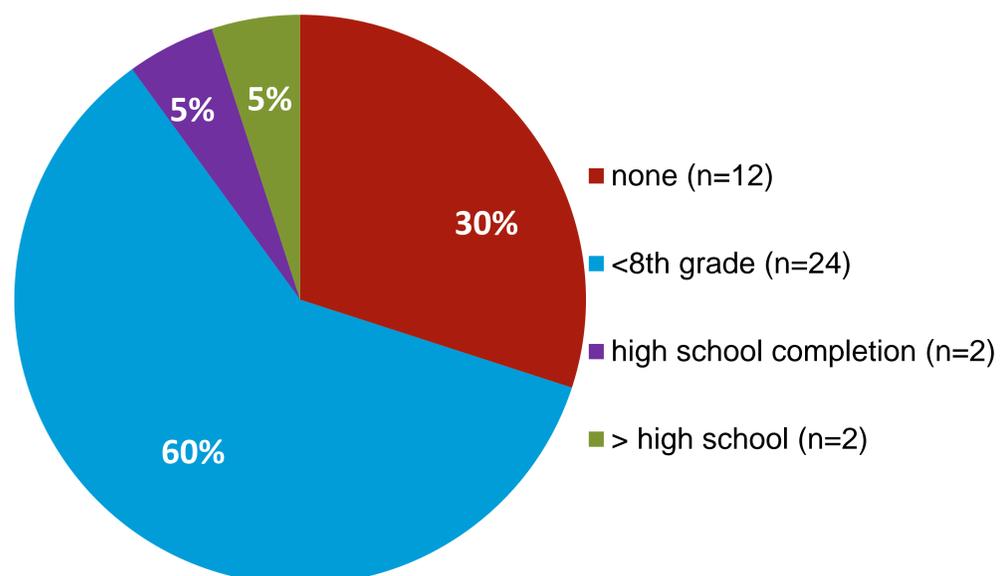
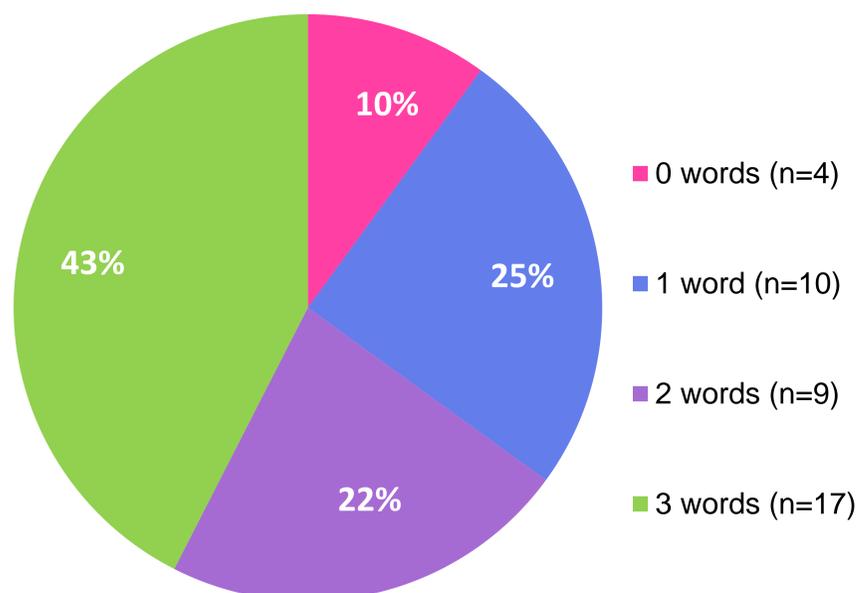


Fig 2. Number of Words recalled among those who were unable to draw the clock



Results

- 165 patients were seen during the study period. Of these, 112 patients (68%) were asked to perform clock drawing tests.
- 54 of these patients (48%) had documentation of their education level.
- 11 (20%) had an eighth grade or greater education and 43 (80%) had less than an eighth grade education.
- 40 patients were unable to perform the clock draw test.
- Four of the 11 patients (36%) having greater than an eighth grade education and 36 of the 43 patients (84%) having less than an eighth grade education level were unable to perform the clock drawing test.
- Among the four patients with greater than eighth grade education who failed the clock drawing test, 3 also failed the word recall test (75%).
- Among the 36 patients with less than an eighth grade education who failed the clock drawing test only 20 patients (55%) also failed the word recall test

Conclusion

- This preliminary study suggests that education level may significantly impact patient’s ability to successfully perform a clock drawing test.
- Other factors such as cultural background and language fluency might play a role as well.

Acknowledgements



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