Abstract

Background: Zung’s self-rating depression scale (SDS) is used frequently in Colombian investigation. However, we don’t count on formal validation of it. Objective: To validate SDS among university female students from Bucaramanga, Colombia. Method: Female students were ask for participating in this study, then fill out SDS and interviewed by psychiatrists using Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders (SCID-I) in to order to identify who meet criteria for major depressive episode (MDE) last month. Results: We interviewed one hundred ten students; mean age was 22.1 years (SD 3.4). SDS score range 29 to 78 (average 49, SD 11.2). Forty-eight (43.6%) students reported clinically important depressive symptoms, while with SCID-I interview we identified nineteen (17.3%) MDE. Cronbach’s alpha test was 0.850, sensibility was 94.7% (CI95% 90.5-99.7), specificity 67.0% (CI95% 56.3-76.3), positive predict value 37.5% (CI95% 24.3-52.7), negative predict value 98.4% (CI95% 90.2-99.9), Cohen’s kappa test 0.390 (CI95% 0.23-0.54), area under curve was 0.856 (CI95% 0.780-0.933), and test-retest correlation was 0.848 (p<0.01). Conclusions: SDS is useful tool for screening MDD among university female students, with high sensibility and good specificity.

Keywords
Zung’s self-rating depression scale, validation studies, students, university.