

**Title :** An Investigation of Clinical and Psychometric Techniques in the Study of Cerebral Dysfunction

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**Objective** 1. Development of a clinically valid, brief, Thai mental status questionnaire for measuring mental changes in a conscious patient secondary to disruption of brain function by a defined neurosurgical lesion. (The mental status questionnaire\* described here is a tool which will be useful to the general physician. The spitzer et. al., Mental Status Schedule described in the introduction will be appropriate to use in psychiatric research).

2. To describe the shifts in symbolic formulations concerning illness as made by the patient and patient's family during the course of the patient's illness.

**Description** Patients on the Neurosurgical Service of Chulalongkorn Hospital who were about to undergo a neurosurgical procedure for correction of intracranial pathology (e.g., a space-occupying lesion or a vascular defect) were neurologically evaluated and selected for the study by Dr. Charas Suwanwella. These patients and their families were extensively interviewed by a trained nurse-technician for general and clinical historical data. Follow-up interviews were used throughout the course of hospitalization and whenever possible at home following discharge. At regular intervals both pre- and post-operatively, the patients were administered a mental status questionnaire. Another technician administered a set of psychological performance tests including the Bender Gestalt, Porteus Maze, Block Design,\* Digit Symbol,\* and Object Assembly\* following a schedule of administration roughly coordinated with administration of the mental status questionnaire. (A control group of neurologically normal individuals were administered the mental status questionnaire and the tests following the routine used with patients to assess learning effect). The performance of a given individual on the abbreviated Thai mental status will be interpreted in terms of its correlation with the changes in his test scores and his neurological status. The interview material collected will be assessed for material which will permit a chronological description of the patient and his family's response to his illness and the actions taken in seeking relief or cure from the available social institutions.

**Progress** The data gathered on 20 patients is essentially completed except for follow-up on perhaps two families to complete the assessment of their response to the patient's recovery or death. A group of 20 non-neurologically involved normals is completed. The numerical rating of all mental status questionnaires given is in progress. Inspection of data indicates that 10 of the pathologic cases will be suitable for detailed analysis and of use in validation of the psychological test and clinical mental status used. The analysis of the data has been delayed by the departure of Dr. Biggers. Plans call for the analysis of data to be completed on or about 15 August 1968.

\* Available in Thai or English upon application to the Chief, Department of Neuropsychiatry.

\* All sub-tests of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS).