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IS H.A.D.S. A GOOD SCREENING METHOD FOR ADJUSTMENT AND MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS IN HOSPITALIZED CANCER PATIENTS? D. RAZAVI, (1) N. DELVAUX, (2) C. FARVACQUES, (3) E Robaye, (1) (1)= Institut Jules Bordet, 1 rue Heger-Bordet, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium. (2)= CAM, Groupe de Recherche et de Formation. (3)= Universite Libre de Bruxelles.

The high prevalence of psychiatric disorders among hospitalized cancer patients reveals the need for the development of screening methods adapted to this population. The Hostital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), a four point and fourteen item questionnaire, was tested as a screening method for adjustment disorders and major depressive disorders in a sample of 210 hospitalized cancer patients. A Relative Operating Characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed illustrating on a curve the relationship between the true positive rate (sensitivity) against the false positive rate (1-specificity). This curve makes possible the choice of an optimal cut-off point, taking in account the medical costs of the consequences of the decision to screen psychological distress and the benefit in term of quality of life of the patients screened. A cut-off score of nineteen is associated with a 70% sensitivity and a 75% specificity for the screening of major depressive disorders. A cut-off score of thirteen is associated with a 75% sensitivity and a 75% specificity for the screening of adjustment disorders and major depressive disorders. HADS appears in this study to be a simple, sensitive and specific tool for the screening of psychiatric disorders in a oncology in-patient population.