

Adapting and Validating the Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale (DKAS) Thai

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KEY MESSAGE: The DKAS-Thai is a culturally adapted, valid, and reliable tool for assessing dementia knowledge in Thailand and identifying gaps for targeted education. However, ongoing refinement and validation in broader Thai populations are warranted.

INTRODUCTION

RESULTS

Accurate dementia knowledge among people involved is essential for timely, person- centred care (1), yet no rigorously adapted Thai version of the **Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale (DKAS)** existed (2); this study developed and validated the DKAS-Thai for these groups.

METHODS

- DKAS (3): validated dementia knowledge assessment **across diverse populations**
- Cross-cultural adaptation (4) of the 25-item DKAS into Thai.
- Refinement by an expert panel (N = 9) and pilot group (N = 40)
- Internal consistency, test-retest reliability, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA).



486 participants in major **university hospitals** in four regions **across Thailand**

136 Family carers

- predominantly daughter and wife

Most common

- physicians and nurses
- internal medicine, psychiatry

195 Multidisciplinary professionals

Most had seen fewer than 10 inpatients with dementia

155 Externs

Mean DKAS-Thai (N=486) **27.3/50** (SD=8.6)

α = 0.825

Strong Reliability Score

The scale demonstrates high internal consistency, making it a dependable tool for Thai populations.

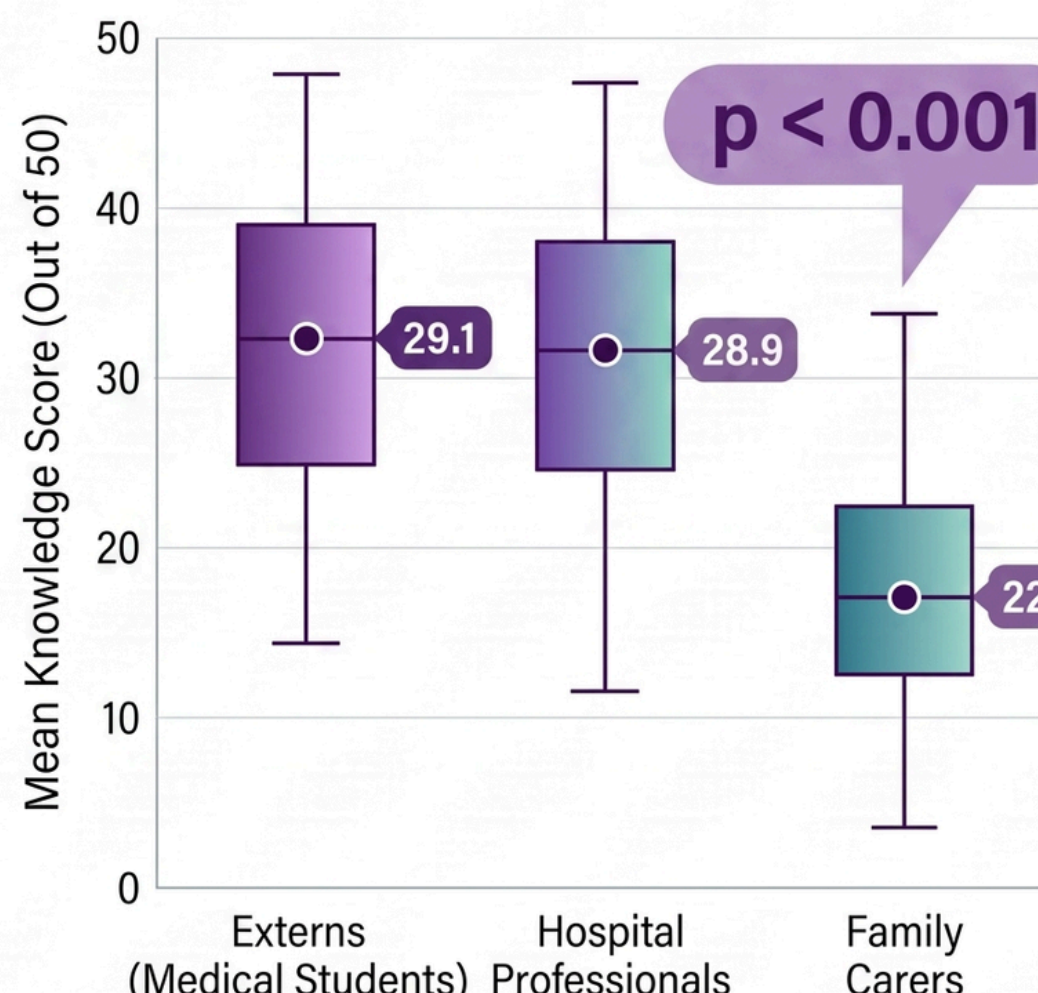
Four Core Knowledge Domains

- Causes and Characteristics
- Communication and Behaviour
- Care Considerations
- Risks and Health Promotion

CFA: Moderate to strong factor loadings (0.44–0.77) **reflecting good domain representation**

Discriminative Validity

Effective Group Discrimination



Mean Knowledge Score (Out of 50)

Externs (Medical Students) 29.1, Hospital Professionals 28.9, Family Carers 22.6

p < 0.001

The DKAS-Thai effectively distinguishes between groups with varying levels of medical training and caregiving experience.

Moderate Temporal Stability (ICC = 0.59)

Test-retest results indicate that the scale provides stable and consistent knowledge scores over time.

Although model fit improved when three items were removed, team deliberation and consultation with the original developers showed they **reflect key person-centred communication and care principles**. To preserve the scale’s theoretical integrity, **all 25 items were retained in the DKAS-Thai (3,5).**

References

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