Hamilton's depression rating scale: Versions, applications and perspectives

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Hamilton’s Depression Rating Scale is the most widely used depression severity rating scale in the world. Since it was originally published in 1960 many other versions of the scale have been published and are being used resulting in confusion among clinicians and researchers about available versions and reduced reliability in clinical studies. The shortcomings observed in the use of the scale, its psychometric properties study outcome, the problems of standardization in its administration and scoring and the need to use non-medical personnel as well in its administration have urged investigators to develop additional versions and aids for administering the scale during the last 20 years: self-report versions, structured interview guides, modified versions and derivatives with reduced or expanded item sets. An academic forum recently established in the U.S.A. can be considered as the first step toward the creation of a new instrument of assessing depression severity with greater reliability and validity.

**Key words:** depression, scales, standardization, psychometric properties, structured interview guides.

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**ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ**


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