Factorial Validity and Reliability of the Malaysian Simplified Chinese Version of Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS-SCV) Among a Group of University Students

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Abstract
This study was aimed at validating the simplified Chinese version of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Support (MSPSS-SCV) among a group of medical and dental students in University Malaya. Two hundred and two students who took part in this study were given the MSPSS-SCV, the Medical Outcome Study social support survey, the Malay version of the Beck Depression Inventory, the Malay version of the General Health Questionnaire, and the English version of the MSPSS. After 1 week, these students were again required to complete the MSPSS-SCV but with the item sequences shuffled. This scale displayed excellent internal consistency (Cronbach’s α = .924), high test–retest reliability (.71), parallel form reliability (.92; Spearman’s ρ, P < .01), and validity. In conclusion, the MSPSS-SCV demonstrated sound psychometric properties in measuring social support among a group of medical and dental students. It could therefore be used as a simple screening tool among young educated Malaysian adolescents.

Keywords
Chinese version, Malay version, perceived social support, psychometric properties, reliability, validation

Introduction
Social support plays an important role in the coping mechanism between stress and psychological or physical symptoms. Various studies have established the association between social support and health.¹⁻⁵ In assessing social support, Sarason and colleagues concluded

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