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**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CORPORATION DEVELOPS NEW TEST FOR
EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

EARLIER DETECTION HELPS PATIENTS GET MEDICAL CARE SOONER

SAN ANTONIO – The Psychological Corporation, a Harcourt Assessment company, announced today that it has developed a test that makes it easier to detect the early onset of Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment and other dysfunctions of the brain's temporo-parietal lobes. Earlier detection is critical to getting proper medical care that could potentially reverse a patient's condition or slow the disease.

Unlike many Alzheimer's tests that probe general intellectual functions and memory abilities, the Alzheimer's Quick Test (AQT) uses rapid naming tasks, in which a patient is timed while naming colors, then shapes and then color and shape combinations. Most people can complete each of these tasks in less than one minute. Extended completion times may indicate a problem.

The AQT assesses cognitive abilities such as attention, processing speed, working memory and retrieval. Simple, yet powerful, the AQT can accurately identify diminished performance even when the clinical symptoms of Alzheimer's are minimal.

"Early detection and continuous monitoring of Alzheimer's disease are critically important as the population ages and as new drug therapies and other treatment options become available," said Aurelio Prifitera, president of The Psychological Corporation. "This new tool is a giant leap forward in screening for and diagnosing Alzheimer's and other temporo-parietal lobe disorders that will enable health care professionals, their patients and patients' families make informed decisions about medical intervention and care giving."

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Because it is an oral test with highly familiar stimuli (colors and shapes), patients taking the AQT do not have to be able to read or write. Performance on the test is not affected by culture, education, gender or age and it can be administered virtually anywhere in the world in almost any language. Unlike some other Alzheimer's diagnostic tests, the AQT is neither invasive nor demeaning to the patient.

Taking less than five minutes to administer and score, the AQT is quicker and more objective than some other screening tests and does not require medical or clinical professionals to administer. However, a professional must interpret the results to determine what treatments or other options are best for the patient.

The AQT provides consistent, stable results over time and can be repeated as frequently as necessary to track the patient's condition and monitor the effects of medication.

A wide range of health care professionals can use the AQT: physicians, such as neurologists, general practitioners and gerontologists; psychologists, including neuropsychologists; pharmaceutical manufacturers, for use in clinical trials; other allied health professionals, including speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists; nursing homes and long-term care facilities; and public health programs.

The European Alzheimer Disease Consortium Cognitive Task Force recently accepted the Alzheimer's Quick Test as part of the protocol for two studies now underway in the European Union.

One of these studies, the Development of Screening Guidelines and Clinical Criteria of Pre-dementia Alzheimer's Disease (DESCRIPA), will focus on 1,100 individuals with mild cognitive impairment. The findings from the DESCRIPA study will lead to the development of European guidelines for the clinical evaluation of patients with MCI.

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A second study, the Impact of Cholinergic Treatment Use (ICTUS), is a three-year treatment study of approximately 400 patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Included in the studies' protocols are clinical, neuropsychological, neurochemical, and brain imaging data, which will result in the large-scale validation of the AQT.

Elisabeth H. Wiig, Ph.D., led the team of internationally recognized researchers that designed the AQT. Dr. Wiig is a professor emerita at Boston University and a renowned author of language and psycho-educational tests, including the soon-to-be published Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals-4 (CELF-4[®]).

Niels Peter Nielsen, M.D., was the team's co-author. Dr. Nielsen is a psychiatrist at the Regional Psychiatric Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, and former chief of geriatric psychiatry in Helsingborg, Sweden.

The team also included Lennart Minthon, M.D., Ph.D., and his colleague, Siegbert Warkentin, Ph.D., both of the Neuropsychiatric Clinic at University Hospital MAS in Malmö, Sweden.

Based in San Antonio, The Psychological Corporation is respected worldwide for its technically superior, industry-leading assessment products. The company publishes the Wechsler[®] family of tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children[®] - Third Edition (WISC-III[®]) and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence[™] - Revised (WPPSI-R[®]), and the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF[®]) family of tests, all of which are industry standards.

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