INTRODUCTION: Clinician-administered cognitive assessments in Alzheimer's disease are used to detect treatment effects, but can also diminish or obscure a treatment effect when scale rating variability is introduced. The MedAvante Analysis of Rating Quality - Alzheimer's Disease (MARQ-AD) was developed specifically for Alzheimer's rating scales to identify administration and scoring deviations in AD assessments in randomized clinical trials.

AIMS: This poster presents the MARQ-AD, and reviews the clinician training and calibration on the scale and its utility in reducing scale variability in Alzheimer's disease clinical trial.

METHODS: Seven doctoral-level psychometricians (“Trainers”) learned the administration and scoring parameters of the MARQ-AD, and rated a series of videos (MMSE, ADAS-cog, CDR, ADCS-ADL, and ADCS-CGIC) of actual patient/caregiver interviews. Data are presented from a calibration exercise, where Trainers viewed and scored each scale with accompanying MARQ-AD scoring guidelines for an AD patient presenting with mild dementia symptomatology.

RESULTS: The average MARQ-AD scores (n=105) were examined for each completed assessment (35 MMSE, 35 ADAS-cog, 35 CDR, 35 ADCS-ADL, and 35 ADCS-ADL), and the independently-derived MARQ-AD scores showed good agreement across the 7 Trainers. Training and calibration data (e.g., “Meets Criteria” or “Doesn't Meet Criteria”) are presented across scales and MARQ-AD domains.

CONCLUSIONS: The MARQ-AD is designed to measure the quality of assessments administered in Alzheimer's disease clinical trials. The MARQ-AD could become integral to an ongoing quality control process incorporated into an AD clinical trial with the goal of reducing assessment scale variability, making detection of a true treatment effect more possible.