The purpose of this study was to determine whether a subjective risk rating for falls is more valuable than other screening tools in relating falls in frail elderly people.

Subjects] The study included 232 elderly people (48 men, 184 women, mean age 82.8 ± 6.3 years) who had received a certification for long-term care, and who used day-care services between September 2009 and March 2010.

Methods] Data included history of falls during the previous year, the subjective risk rating of specific tasks (SRRST) which is composed of seven questions, and potential confounding factors including demographic variables, primary diseases or general health status, physical performance, and behaviour variables. To determine the independent factors related to falling, a multiple logistic regression analysis was used to measure odds ratios adjusted for all measurement variables.

Results] Eighty one subjects (34.9%) had fallen during the previous year. In the multiple logistic regression analysis, a significant relationship was only found with the SRRST score (odds ratio: 1.22, 95% confidence interval: 1.03 - 1.45, p = 0.025).

Conclusion] The SRRST is an independent relation of falls, and may be useful to determine interventions for preventing falls, such as the supervision approach in the frail elderly people.