PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF THE PORTUGUESE VERSION OF THE PEDIATRIC QUALITY OF LIFE INVENTORY, VERSION 4.0 GENERIC CORE SCALE FOR CHILDREN AGED 8 TO 12

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This study describes the adaptation and psychometric study of the self-report generic core scale of PedsQL - Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (Varni, Skelley, & Kurtin, 1999), a modular instrument for measuring health-related quality of life in children and adolescents. Conceptual and technical equivalence were achieved through an iterative process of forward and backward translations and the Portuguese version of the PedsQL was then administered to a sample of 381 children and adolescents. We used a sample of healthy school children recruited in 3 schools from Porto's district, 207 (53.9%) girls and 174 (46.1%) boys, aged 8 to 12 and with a mean age of 10.03. The examination of the PedsQL factor structure was undertaken using principal components factor analysis with oblique rotation. The results were consistent with the analysis conducted in the development of the instrument and suggested the elimination of 3 items. The Portuguese version resulted in only 20 items which were also submitted to a factor analysis and revealed a 5 factor structure, similar to a priori theoretically-derived scales. Internal consistency reliability for the Total Scale Score (alpha=0.83), Physical Health Summary Score (alpha=0.64) and Psychological Health Summary Score (alpha=0.81) were quite satisfactory.

ADAPTATION OF THE SCHOOLCAGERS’ COPING STRATEGIES INVENTORY TO A PORTUGUESE SAMPLE OF CHILDREN AGED 8 TO 12

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This paper describes the adaptation and the psychometric study of the Schoolcagers’ Coping Strategies Inventory (SCSI) (Rosen-Winger, 1999) in a sample of Portuguese children. The SCSI is a self-report instrument that measures the frequency and effectiveness of children’s problem-solving strategies. The authors also aimed to describe the children’s coping strategies and to examine age and gender differences.

VALIDITY OF THE ZULLIGER TEST IN ANXIETY ASSESSMENT

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The purpose of this study was to establish the validity of the Zulliger Test for the evaluation of anxiety. The objectives under focus stated, on one hand, the validity of the evaluation of anxiety through a projective technique (Zulliger Test) in socially desirable conditions, and also that the real feelings of the patient. The experimental groups relies on the Zulliger Individual and Group Test (ZIGT), Zulliger Test, Group-structured Anxiety Inventory and Camment Anxiety Questionnaire. Both groups of socially desirable and anxious persons were submitted to Zulliger Test in an experimental condition and in condition of actualization of socially desirable answers. In order to analyze the data of the ZIGT, I used the J.E. Exner’s (1986) comprehensive system. The results show that the data collected from the ZIGT were significantly influenced by the socially desirability condition. It was possible to obtain an act valid marks from the ZIGT for revealing the anxiety (which correlates significantly with the anxiety markers from Zulliger test and also with the scores from STA and Camment). The application of the ZIGT as a screening instrument for anxiety scores to be an adequate one, taking into consideration the limits of the ZIGT in anxiety disorders assessment.

THE VALIDATION OF TWO NEW SCALES IN QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIAL COMPARISON RESEARCH

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Aims: The aims of this study were to design and validate two new questionnaires for assessing quality of life and social comparisons in a chronically ill population: a) a subjective quality of life scale (SOLQ-QoL); b) a social comparisons scale (SCS) which measures the use of social comparisons gained from reading a self-help group newsletter.

Method: Six hundred postal questionnaires were administered to a random sample of members of a self-help group for patients with a chronic illness (the Motorin’s Society). The study yielded a 34% response rate. The questionnaires administered were the SF-36, SOLQ-QoL, Intervention/Compliance questionnaire; SCS; three disease severity scales, namely the Venick Symptom Scale, the Subjective Timidity Severity Questionnaire, and an auditory distractibility questionnaire; and demographics.