The psychometric properties of the German version of the Worker Role Interview

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Objective: To engage in occupation-based and client-centred practice, the use of work assessments as outcome measurement provides guidance to clients, their employers, or vocational rehabilitation counsellors. Furthermore, they become more and more important in current health and social care contexts due to restricted resources, an increasing need for quality control and the call for evidence-based practice.

The aim of this study is to investigate the psychometric properties of the German version of the Worker Role Interview (WRI) in a German-speaking population with musculoskeletal disorders in Switzerland. This standardised occupational therapy assessment is based on the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) and is designed to be used as a psychosocial and environmental component of the initial rehabilitation assessment process for an injured worker or a worker with a long-term disability and poor or limited work history. The instrument has recently been modified and needs to be further validated.

Methodology: The proposed study has a quantitative, non-experimental, single group design. The approach to assess the psychometric properties WRI is based on the Rasch Measurement Model, including the Rasch Analysis.

Data will be gathered from 20 participants with musculoskeletal disorders (back pain). Recruitment will be at the Department of Rheumatology and Institute of Physical Medicine at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland. The interviews, lasting one hour, will be conducted face-to-face and tape-recorded. Five occupational therapists will subsequently rate all 20 interviews resulting in 100 ratings. To receive rater severity/leniency, each of the therapists will previously rate videotaped interviews and will therefore pass through a one day-training session.

Approval of the ethical board of the Canton of Zurich has been obtained.

Significance of the study: A valid WRI is needed to practice evidence-based and client-centred occupational therapy, especially in work rehabilitation programmes and in other back-to-work activities such as case management or social rehabilitation. The instrument can be applied as a useful complement to other physical capacity assessments.

Keywords / Suchbegriffe
Assessment, Worker Role, Model of Human Occupation, interrater reliability, construct validity, Rasch Analysis

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