VALIDATION OF THE SINGING VOICE HANDICAP INDEX (SVHI) INTO PORTUGUESE FROM PORTUGAL

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INTRODUCTION

Vocal problems and their impact on quality of life differ significantly between singers and non singers, so the 4 questionnaires designed to evaluate voice disorders in singers should include issues related to the singing voice. Instruments with these characteristics have already been created and validated for the English language. After translation into Portuguese from Portugal had not yet been published.

The aim of this paper is to translate, adapt and validate the Singing Voice Handicap Index (SVHI) into Portuguese from Portugal.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The Portuguese version of the SVHI was shown to be a reliable and valid instrument for evaluating vocal problems among Portuguese singers and can be added to the list of questionnaires that were adapted from the original American English version.

RESULTS

Immediately, participants used a visual analog scale to rate the severity of their vocal problems in singing. The scale was graded from 0 to 10, 0 being “not a problem” and 10 being a “severe problem”.

STRICTIVE ANALYSIS

The parameters of the Portuguese version of the SVHI questionnaire were assessed.

1) Ability to discriminate between normal singers and dysphonic singers: the test was used to compare the results of the questionnaire in singers with vocal problems with those of the questionnaire in singers without vocal problems.

2) Test-Retest Reliability: this parameter evaluates the stability of the results, free from random error and unwanted variation. The Spearman correlation test was used to compare the results of the questionnaire in the first evaluation with the results of the questionnaire in the second evaluation after a period of time.

3) Internal Consistency: internal consistency is the measure of the correlation between the different items of the test or between the items intended to assess the same dimension. The Cronbach’s alpha was used to determine the internal consistency reliability of the questionnaire.

4) Validity: validity is the measure of the correlation between the results of the test and the variable that the test intends to assess. Construct or convergent validity was used. This parameter measures the correlation between the results of the questionnaire and the results of other tests that measure the same variable. In this case, the other test was the visual analog scale previously described.

CONCLUSIONS

The version of the Singing Voice Handicap Index (SVHI) translated and adapted into Portuguese from Portugal is a reliable and valid instrument to assess the voice handicap in singers.

REFERENCES


Table 1: Demographic data

Groups differ only in sex distribution: women were more prevalent in the control group (84%) than in the group of singers with vocal symptoms (p < 0.01).

Available upon request from the authors.

Table 1: The singing voice handicap index (SVHI) translated and adapted into Portuguese from Portugal is a reliable and valid instrument to assess the voice handicap in singers.

Table 2: The singing voice handicap index (SVHI) translated and adapted into Portuguese from Portugal is a reliable and valid instrument to assess the voice handicap in singers.