

VALIDITY OF THE FACES PAIN SCALE-REVISED AND NUMERICAL RATING SCALE OF PAIN INTENSITY IN A CLINICAL SETTING

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Background and aims: Research supports the validity of the NRS and FPS-R as measures of pain intensity in non-Portuguese individuals. A recent study supported the validity of the NRS and FPS-R in healthy Portuguese students for measuring experimental pain. No previous study has evaluated the validity of these measures in Portuguese clinical populations. This study sought to address this gap.

Methods: 59 adults with chronic pain completed the NRS and FPS-R for worst, least, and average pain, measures of pain interference (P-BPI), physical functioning (PCS), psychological functioning (MCS), anxiety (HADS-A) and depression (HADS-D).

Results: Results showed moderate to strong associations between the NRS and FPS-R ($0.40 < r < 0.67$). Significant correlations between both NRS and FPS-R, and pain interference (0.61 and 0.60, respectively), physical (-0.48 and -0.64) and mental (-0.40 and -0.48) health were found. The FPS-R, but not the NRS, was significantly correlated (0.38 and 0.35, respectively) with anxiety and depression.

Conclusions: The strong associations between the NRS and FPS-R, and stronger associations between them, measures of pain interference and physical health than those found between pain intensity and measures of psychological functioning, support the convergent and discriminative validity of the NRS and FPS-R as measures of pain intensity. However, the stronger associations between the FPS-R and measures of psychological functioning suggest that it may tap more into the emotional/affective components of pain than the NRS, perhaps due to the emotional aspects of the facial expressions on the FPS-R.

Acknowledgments: First author received FCT PhD grant SFRH/BD/ 40956/2007.

Disclosure: None declared