

Translation, cross-cultural adaptation and validation of the ABILHAND-Kids for the Brazilian Portuguese

Tradução, adaptação cultural e validação do ABILHAND-Kids para o português brasileiro

Traducción, adaptación cultural y validación del ABILHAND-Kids para el portugués brasileño

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ABSTRACT | This study aimed to translate, to adapt cross-culturally and to validate the ABILHAND-Kids for the Brazilian Portuguese. ABILHAND-Kids was translated to Brazilian Portuguese and translated back by two certified translators in each phase. After the expert committee approval, the pre-test version was applied in 40 parents of children with cerebral palsy in order to verify item comprehension. Twenty-one volunteers were enrolled in the psychometric properties analysis. Reproducibility was verified by interrater and intrarater reliability and the validity was tested by investigating Box and Block Test, Purdue Pegboard Test and grip strength correlations. ABILHAND-Kids showed strong intrarater (ICC=0.91) and interrater (ICC=0.97) reliability and high internal consistency (Cronbach's alfa: 0.99). ABILHAND-Kids showed significant correlations with Box and Block Test (performed by dominant upper extremity), Purdue Pegboard Test and grip strength. The Brazilian Portuguese version of ABILHAND-Kids is a reliable tool to measure upper extremities function of children with cerebral palsy, based on the perception of their parents.

Keywords | Cerebral Palsy; Validation Studies; Evaluation.

RESUMO | O objetivo deste estudo foi traduzir o ABILHAND-Kids para o português brasileiro, adaptá-lo culturalmente e verificar sua validade e confiabilidade. O ABILHAND-Kids foi traduzido para o português e a tradução reversa foi feita por dois tradutores independentes em cada fase. Após a aprovação do comitê, a versão pré-teste foi aplicada em 40 voluntários com filhos com

paralisia cerebral para verificar a compreensão dos itens. Participaram da análise das propriedades psicométricas 21 voluntários. A reprodutibilidade foi verificada por análise da confiabilidade intra e interavaliador e a validade pela correlação com o Box and Block Test, Purdue Pegboard Test e força de preensão manual. O ABILHAND-Kids demonstrou alta confiabilidade intra-avaliador (ICC=0,91) e interavaliador (ICC=0,97) e alta consistência interna (Alfa de Cronbach: 0,99). O ABILHAND-Kids apresentou correlação significativa com Box and Block Test (realizado pelo membro superior dominante), com o Purdue Pegboard Test and a força de preensão. A versão brasileira do ABILHANDkids é válida e confiável para avaliar a função de membros superiores em crianças com Paralisia Cerebral, com base na percepção de seus pais.

Descritores | Paralisia Cerebral; Estudos de Validação; Avaliação.

RESUMEN | El objetivo de este estudio fue traducir el ABILHAND-Kids para el portugués brasileño, adaptar culturalmente y verificar su validez y confiabilidad. El ABILHAND-Kids fue traducido para el portugués y la traducción reversa fue hecha por dos traductores independientes en cada fase. Después de aprobación del comité, la versión pré-prueba fue aplicada en 40 voluntarios con hijos presentando parálisis cerebral para verificar la comprensión de los ítems. Participaron del análisis de las propiedades psicométricas 21 voluntarios. La reproducibilidad fue verificada por análisis de confiabilidad intra y interevaluador y validez por

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correlación con el Box and Block Test, el Purdue Pegboard Test y la fuerza de prensión manual. El ABILHAND-Kids demostró alta confiabilidad intra (ICC=0,91) y interevaluadora (ICC=0,97), y alta consistencia interna (Alfa de Cronbach: 0.99). El ABILHAND-Kids presentó correlación significativa con el Box and Block Test (realizado por el miembro superior dominante), el Purdue

Pegboard Test y la fuerza de prensión. La versión brasileña del ABILHANDKids es válida y confiable para evaluar la función de miembros superiores en niños con parálisis cerebral basado en la percepción de sus padres.

Palabras clave | Parálisis Cerebral; Estudios de Validación; Evaluación.

INTRODUCTION

Non-progressive chronic encephalopathy, also known as cerebral palsy (CP), is one of the most common cause of children's disability and the prevalence rate is 2 to 5 cases per 1,000 born alive^{1,2}. CP comprises a group of permanent movement and posture disorders, resulted from non-progressive disturbances that occurred in the developing fetal or infant brain³. These characteristics may result in changes in fine motor coordination and manual dexterity, which can limit manual ability and functionality^{1,2,4}. Manual ability is defined as the capability of performing daily activities that require upper extremities. This ability can be influenced by the environment, auxiliary devices, personal aspects and motivational, emotional and cognitive states. Therefore, manual dexterity can be measured by the perception of parents on the performance of daily activities^{1,5,6}.

A comprehensive analysis of impairments requires standardized tools to measure and follow clinical progression and to establish treatment effectiveness. Questionnaires and functional scales are important for clinical practice and scientific research to quantify outcomes in an effective, objective, reliable and inexpensive manner^{7,8}. However, questionnaires developed in other languages must be translated and culturally adapted to the environment in which it will be applied. Psychometric properties must be evaluated to ensure that the test has the same characteristics, validity and reliability as the original version^{7,8}.

ABILHAND-Kids questionnaire was developed to evaluate manual ability of children with CP based on the perception of their parents. Manual ability is required in daily activities involving upper limbs, in order to achieve the activity goal⁹. The strategies shown by children were rated in 21 items, according to the perception of their parents. No human or technical assistance was offered during the activities. Scoring is based on a three level scale: the activity is impossible, difficult or

easy to complete⁹. The twenty-one topics in this scale were proved to be reliable and reproducible¹. They were elaborated according to the Rasch measurement model to convert an ordinal scale to linear measurements of a unidimensional scale^{1,10}.

The questionnaire was developed in French and has been used in several clinical studies. It is a useful tool for assessing the relationship between manual ability and dystonia and choreoathetosis¹¹, for identifying factors that might influence children's manual function in long term¹², and for identifying children's upper limb impairments¹³. Moreover, ABILHAND-Kids questionnaire has been used as an outcome measure in several interventional studies¹⁴⁻¹⁸ and in other clinical conditions such as radial deficiency¹⁹, obstetric brachial plexus injury²⁰ and paediatric ischaemic stroke²¹.

ABILHAND-Kids has been translated to other languages, such as Turkish, English and Dutch^{9,22}. However, the translation, transcultural equivalence and psychometric properties are not available in Brazil. The aim of the present study was to develop a transcultural version of ABILHAND-Kids and to evaluate its reliability and validity for parents of children with CP in Brazil.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

Sixty-one parents of children with CP took part in the study. Forty of them participated during the pretest phase and the remaining 21 took part during psychometric properties analysis. Volunteers were recruited by verbal and digital invitation. Participants were considered eligible for the study if they were 18 to 60 years old, if their children had been diagnosed with CP and were between six and 18 years old²³. Children using bracing on upper extremities or with comprehension difficulties on simple verbal commands were excluded.

The author of the original version consented to this study and originality was confirmed by e-mail. This study was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Universidade Paulista. Written consent clarifying the experimental protocol was signed by each volunteer.

Procedures

Translation, back-translation (translation back to the original language), committee analysis, pretest phase and validation were performed^{7,24} (Figure 1).

ABILHAND-Kids questionnaire was translated to Portuguese by two independent Brazilian translators, who are fluent in English (T1 and T2). These two versions were compared and discussed by the committee composed by four specialized physical therapists, and by two translators. When divergences occurred, alterations were performed to elaborate the consensual version in Portuguese (T12), to make sure that the translated version reflected the same item content in the original questionnaire.

T12 version was translated back to English by two independent English-native translators (BT1 and BT2), who did not have any knowledge about the original version.

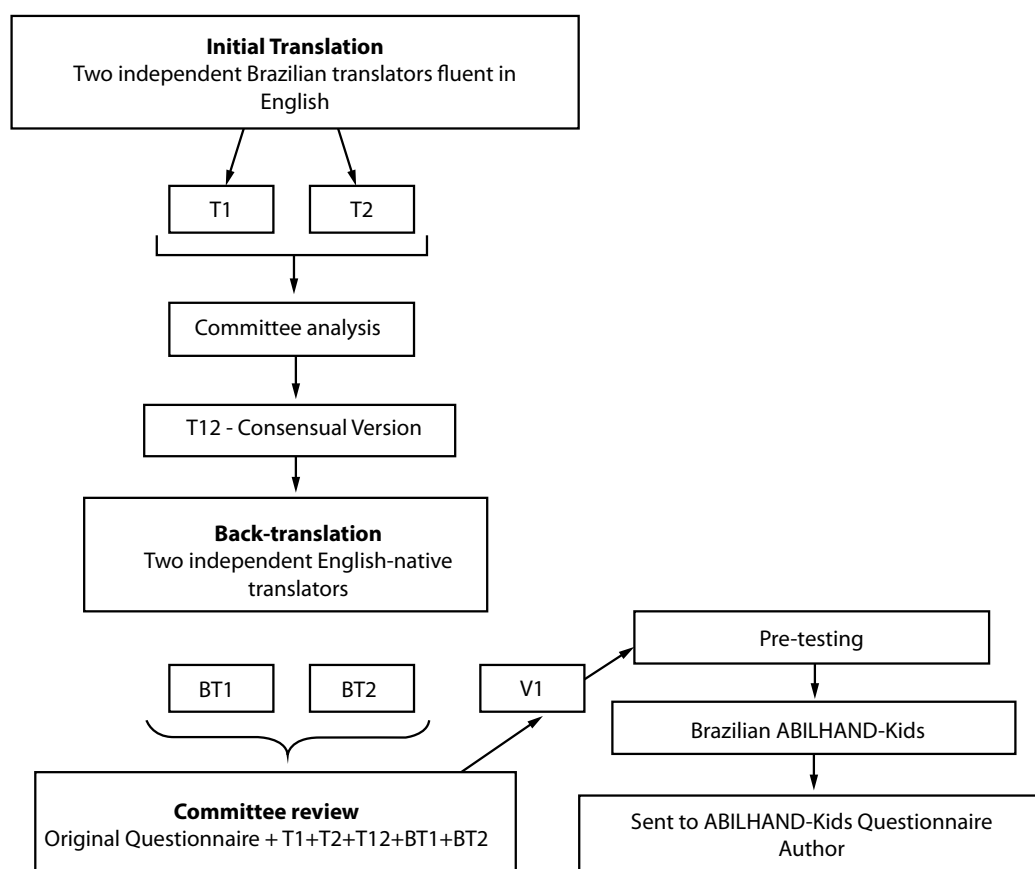


Figure 1. Study flow chart

Then, the committee held a further meeting and differences among the translations (T1, T2, T12, BT1, BT2) were analyzed in order to elaborate the first version (V1), which was used during pretest phase. Pretest phase was performed to analyze comprehension and acceptability of questions and answers⁸. After pretesting, the final version of ABILHAND-Kids was sent to the author of the original version for appreciation and approval (Graph 1).

Reliability evaluation

Interrater and intrarater reliability analysis were performed to evaluate reproducibility. ABILHAND-Kids was applied by two researchers, with a one-hour interval between tests (interraters). In a period of three to seven days, the first researcher applied the questionnaire again (intrarater). Internal consistency was evaluated to address the interrelation of different topics (topic homogeneity)²⁵.

Validity evaluation

Association among ABILHAND-Kids and other tests that measure motor function and muscle strength were evaluated²⁵.

Box and Block Test (BBT) is a functional test of gross manual dexterity, which requires the patient to pick up and transfer blocks (2.5 cm) from one side to the other of a divided box for 60 seconds. Then, the number of transferred boxes was counted²⁶.

The Purdue Pegboard Test (PPT) is a functional test of manual dexterity and bimanual coordination. Children with CP were instructed to insert one pin at a time in a board as quickly as possible in a fixed time. The number of inserted pins is the final score^{27,28}. For the assembly test, CP children were asked to put together pins, washers and collars with both hands and the number of parts assembled was scored. The test compiles five separate scores from test procedures, including dominant hand (30 s), non-dominant hand (30 s), both hands (30 s), and assembly (60 s)^{27,28}.

Grip strength is a hand function evaluation and an indicator of general health. The mean of three maximum contractions of the dominant hand was recorded with Jamar hydraulic hand dynamometer²⁹.

Statistical analysis

Data analysis was performed using SPSS for Windows (version 12.0, SPSS Inc.). Continuous variables are expressed as mean and standard deviation and the categories are shown as frequency and percentage.

Test-retest reliability was evaluated by intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) with 95% confidence intervals (95%CI). Interrater and intrarater reliability was evaluated. Internal consistency was measured by Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Pearson correlation coefficient assessed the relationship between ABILHAND-Kids scores and BBT, PPT and grip strength scores.

RESULTS

During the translation phase, no grammar difficulties were reported, however, a few alterations were performed by the committee to achieve equivalence between the original and target version. Every item of T1 and T2 versions was discussed to elaborate T12 consensual version.

Experiential equivalence was observed in two items. On item 6, "Rolling up a sleeve of a sweater" was translated as "Puxar a manga para cima de uma blusa". The term "sweater" is rarely used among Brazilians, and the term "blusa" was chosen by the committee. On item 1, "Open a jar of jam", the movement performed to open the jar is evaluated, so "doce" was more adequate (more general than jam). No divergences were found on semantic or idiomatic equivalences (Chart 1).

In the second review, after back-translation, differences among all versions and the original questionnaire were analyzed by the committee. Minimal changes were made during this phase to elaborate the version used at the pretest phase. Few differences were found between BT1 and BT2. For example, one translator used the gerund of the verb ("opening") and the other translator preferred to use the imperative form ("open") at the beginning of the sentence. For V1 elaboration, the committee decided that the gerund form was more suitable for the questionnaire. Moreover, "unwrapping" and "unscrewing" were translated as "open" and then translated back to "opening". The term "opening" is frequently used among Brazilians for different actions that involves opening an object, thus, "opening" was maintained in V1.

Pretest was performed with 40 participants and all questionnaire topics showed at least 90% of comprehension, requiring no alterations. The versions were sent by e-mail to the author of the ABILHAND-Kids original version, who observed that topic 10 – "Opening a breadbox" – was translated as "Abrir um pacote de pão". However, in Belgium (the questionnaire's place of origin), the word "breadbox" is referred to a sandwich-maker ("sanducheira" in Portuguese) or lunch bag ("lancheira" in Portuguese). Therefore, topic 10 was modified to "Abrir uma Sanducheira/Lancheira" to guarantee conceptual equivalence (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Original ABILHAND-Kids and Brazilian version of ABILHAND-Kids

Original Questionnaire	Brazilian Version
1. Opening a jar of jam	Abrir um pote de doce
2. Putting on a backpack\ schoolbag	Colocar uma mochila nas costas
3. Opening the cap of tooth-paste tube	Abrir a tampa da pasta de dente
4. Unwrapping a chocolate bar	Abrir uma barra de chocolate
5. Washing the upper-body	Lavar a parte de cima do corpo
6. Rolling-up a sleeve of a sweater	Puxar a manga para cima (arregaçar) de uma blusa

(continues)

Chart 1. Continuation

Original Questionnaire	Brazilian Version
7. Sharpening a pencil	Apontar um lápis
8. Take off a T-shirt	Tirar uma camiseta
9. Squeezing toothpaste onto a toothbrush	Colocar a pasta de dente na escova
10. Opening a bread box	Abrir uma lancheira (sanduicheira)
11. Unscrewing a bottle cap	Abrir a tampa de uma garrafa
12. Zipping-up trousers	Fechar o zíper das calças
13. Buttoning up a shirt\sweater	Abotoar uma camisa/casaco
14. Filling a glass with water	Encher um copo com água
15. Switching on a beside lamp	Acender uma lâmpada (abajur)
16. Putting on a hat	Colocar um chapéu (boné)
17. Fastening the snap of a jacket	Apertar botões de uma jaqueta
18. Buttoning up trousers	Abotoar as calças
19. Opening a bag of chips	Abrir um pacote de batatinha/salgadinho
20. Zipping-up a jacket	Fechar o zíper de uma jaqueta
21. Taking a coin of a pocket	Tirar uma moeda do bolso

Twenty-one parents participated in reliability analysis, validity and internal consistency phase, with no sample loss during the study's period. Participants were 43.7 ± 11.8 years old; 14 of them (66%) were women; six (28%) had not completed elementary school, ten (47%) completed high school and only one (4.7%) graduated from university (Table 1).

Table 1. Sample characteristics at reliability and validity phases

Variable	Descriptive analysis
Gender n (%)	
Male	13 (61.9)
Female	8 (38)
Age, mean \pm SD	13.1 \pm 4.6
Dominancy n (%)	
Right	10 (47.6)
Left	11 (52.3)
Cerebral palsy characteristics, n (%)	
Quadriplegia/ paresis	4 (17.39)
Diplegia	15 (73.91)
Hemiplegia/ paresis	4 (8.69)

Numeric data are shown in mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and categorical numbers in frequency (%)

ABILHAND-Kids Brazilian version showed high intrarater and interrater reliability (Table 2). Cronbach's alpha was 0.99 and correlation between Brazil-ABILHAND-Kids, BBT (dominant upper limb), PPT and grip strength were significant (Table 3).

Table 2. Intrarater and interrater reliability analysis

	Intrarater reliability		Interrater reliability	
	ICC	95% CI	ICC	95% CI
ABILHAND-Kids	0.91	0.88-0.98	0.97	0.90-0.99

ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient; CI: confidence interval

Table 3. Correlation between ABILHAND-Kids, Grip Strength, Box and Blocks Test and Purdue pegboard Test

	ABILHAND-Kids	
	r	p-value
Grip Strength	0.431	0.05
Box and Blocks Test		
DH	0.611	0.003
NH	0.334	0.139
Purdue Pegboard Test		
DH	0.588	0.005
ND	0.594	0.005
BH	0.504	0.020
Assembly	0.572	0.007

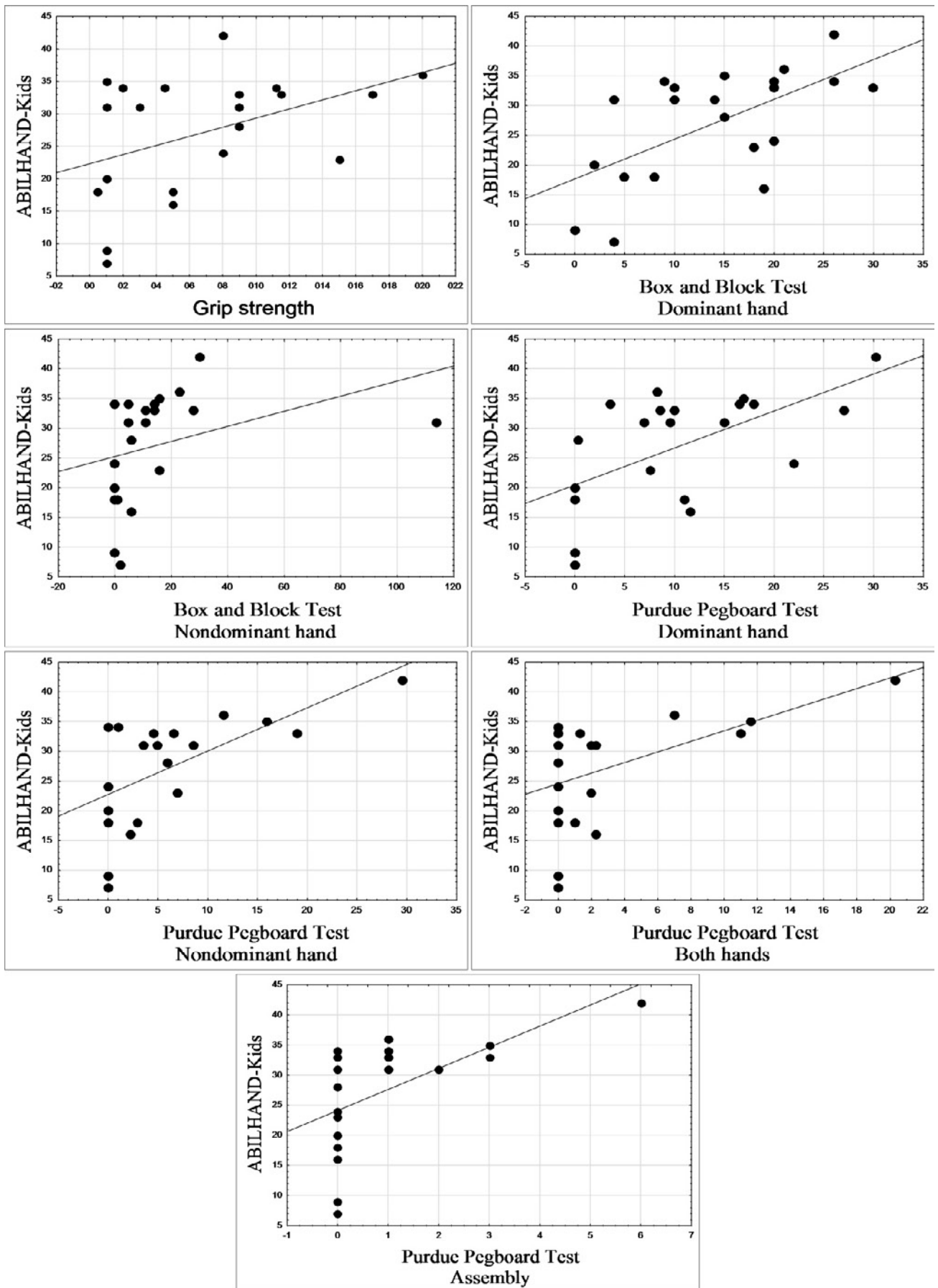
DH: dominant hand; NH: non-dominant hand; BH: both hands

DISCUSSION

This study demonstrates that the Brazilian version of ABILHAND-Kids is reproducible and valid for measuring the perception of parents on the manual ability of their children with CP. The questionnaire is suitable for health assistance and research studies.

Brazilian ABILHAND-Kids test-retest reliability at the first and the second assessment was 0.91 for intrarater ICC and 0.97 for interraters. The original ABILHAND-Kids test-retest reliability was also excellent ($r=0.91$, $p=0.001$)¹.

Several clinical tests can be used to assess hand function, such as BBT that measure gross manual dexterity, PPT that assess manual dexterity and bimanual coordination, and grip strength that is an indicator of general health. We assessed the association of ABILHAND-Kids Brazilian version with BBT, PPT, and grip strength. A significant association was observed between ABILHAND-Kids Brazilian version ($r=0.61$, $p=0.003$) and the dominant hand results from BBT. However, no significant association was observed with the results obtained with non-dominant hand ($r=0.33$, $p=0.139$). These findings partially corroborate with the results reported in the original version, which showed significant association with dominant ($r=0.69$, $p<0.001$) and non-dominant hand evaluation ($r=0.71$, $p<0.001$)²⁸. This difference between original and Brazilian versions might be due to the difference of volunteers' topography. In our sample, we included 17% of patients with quadriplegia, 73% with diplegia and 8% with hemiplegia. In the original version, 25% of patients were quadriplegic, 17% diplegic and 56% hemiplegic.



Graph 1. Correlation between ABILHAND-Kids, Box and Block Test, Purdue Pegboard Test and grip strength

We observed a significant relationship between the Brazilian version of ABILHAND-Kids and PPT dominant hand ($r=0.58$, $p=0.005$) and non-dominant hand scores ($r=0.59$, $p=0.005$)²⁸. These findings corroborate results reported in the original version, which showed significant correlations with dominant ($r=0.68$, $p<0.001$) and with non-dominant hands ($r=0.57$, $p<0.001$). The Brazilian version showed significant association with grip strength ($r=0.43$, $p=0.05$), as did the original version ($r=0.48$).

The Brazilian version showed an Internal Consistency of Cronbach's alpha of 0.99. Instead of performing Cronbach's alpha to assess internal consistency, the original version used a person separation reliability coefficient that was determined as the ratio of the true to the observed (true + error) variance in the sample ($r=0.94$).

The description of every phase of translation and cultural adaptation is important to provide enough information to help choosing proper evaluation tools for clinical and scientific purposes^{7,8}. Otherwise, the results provided by the questionnaire might be biased, affecting clinical practice or scientific researches⁷. The translation and cross-cultural adaptation methods used in this study are well established in the literature^{7,24}.

Several limitations of this study need to be addressed. Limited sample size could reduce statistical power of the analysis, and a responsiveness analysis of the Brazilian version is necessary. Further researches with larger sample size and diversified topography are needed to evaluate the responsiveness of the Brazilian version of ABILHAND-Kids. According to Elvrum et al.³⁰, performance on abilities tests in clinical environment might differ from manual abilities performed during daily activities of children with CP. Other questionnaires also evaluate upper extremities function based on the perception of parents (e.g., children's hand-use experience questionnaire, pediatric motor activity log and infant motor activity log)⁹ and these tools could be applied in the validation process. However, these questionnaires have not been translated and culturally adapted to Brazilian Portuguese.

CONCLUSION

The Brazilian version of ABILHAND-Kids showed to be an evaluation tool of easy comprehension and application, valid and reliable to measure upper extremities function of children with cerebral palsy by their parents' perception in Brazil.

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