

Adaptation and validation of Child Vulnerability Scale in Portuguese parents



LÍGIA LIMA; ESEP - Escola Superior de Enfermagem do Porto - CINTE-SIS - Center for Health Technology and Services Research; Professora Coordenadora; Doutoramento;
✉ ligia@esenf.pt

MARINA S. LEMOS; Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto; Professora Catedrática;
✉ marina@fpe.up.pt

JOÃO A. LOPES; Escola de Psicologia da Universidade do Minho; Professor Associado; Agregação;
✉ joaols@psi.uminho.pt

I. troductio. a. d objectives:

Evidence shows that parental beliefs play a key role in child health outcomes. Therefore, interventions aimed to promote the child's adjustment to a chronic condition should assess these parent factors. Forsyth and collaborators designed the Child Vulnerability Scale (CVS) as a quick screening tool for use by psychologists, nurses, and other health professionals. It contains eight Likert-type items, each detailing a specific health-related concern for the purposes of evaluating parents' perception of their child's medical vulnerability. The aim of this study was to adapt and validate the Child Vulnerability Scale in a sample of Portuguese parents.

Method: Participants were 56 parents of children and adolescents who were cancer survivors. The CVS was adapted to Portuguese with back translation. The scale's dimensionality was first studied through Principal Axis Factoring, which was then confirmed by Confirmatory Factor Analysis. The scale reliability was also studied.

Results a. d discussio. :

Exploratory factor analysis suggested the existence of a single factor, which was confirmed by Confirmatory factor analyses. The model's goodness-of-fit indexes revealed an adequate fit ($\chi^2(8) = 18.361, p < .432, \chi^2/df = 1.020, CFI = .998, RMSEA = .019$). The scale reliability was also good, with a Cronbach's α value of .86. The results provide support for the reliability as well as for the validity of the Portuguese version Child Vulnerability Scale. Compared with the results obtained in other adaptation studies, this version of CVS reveals good psychometric properties.

Co. clusio. : The instrument proved to be a valid measure for the assessment of parents' perception of their child's medical vulnerability. The CVS can be a valuable instrument in the development of nursing interventions with parents of ill children and adolescents.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE:
parents beliefs; child's vulnerability; scale; validation