

Proposer:

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Statement of topic:

Validating the factorial structure of the everyday health information literacy screening tool in three different populations

Significance and Relevance of the Topic:

In this study we study the factorial structure of the everyday health information literacy (EHIL) screening tool developed by Niemelä and colleagues (2012). Everyday health information literacy combines the concepts of health literacy and information literacy, and is directed especially to studying populations that possess basic literacy skills. More specifically, it refers to the abilities needed to identify and retrieve relevant health information, assess its quality and applicability and analyse, understand, and use the information to make good health decisions (MLA 2003) in everyday life situations. To add to the limited body of research on health information literacy, Niemelä *et al.* (2012) designed a 10-item screening tool 'aiming to detect individuals with problems related to their interest and motivation, finding, understanding, evaluating and using of health information but being literate at the average level' (Niemelä *et al.* 2012, 130).

The aim of the present study is to validate the factorial structure of the EHIL screening tool. Factor analysis is a data reduction method that can be used to explore common underlying dimensions (factors) from a larger number of variables. It is a frequently employed technique in questionnaire validation. The use of validated questionnaires is important since it allows the comparison of data collected from different populations or in different studies. In this study, we collected data with the EHIL screening tool from three populations with varying characteristics to investigate whether a similar factorial structure for the screening tool can be found in each of the populations.

Content: The poster will include an introduction section in which the concept of everyday health information literacy and related studies are briefly reviewed. The aim and objectives of the study are stated and the method of data collection and analysis are described. The main emphasis of the poster is in the results section of the study where the results of exploratory factor analyses are presented. Finally, the contribution and implications of the study are discussed

Abstract:

Introduction. Everyday health information literacy refers to the abilities needed to identify and retrieve relevant health information, assess its quality and applicability and analyse, understand, and use the information to make good health decisions in everyday

life (MLA 2003). Based on this definition, Niemelä *et al.* (2012) developed a screening tool for assessing everyday health information literacy, tested it among Finnish students, and based on the results suggested a three-factor structure for it (motivation, confidence, and evaluation). In this study we aim at investigating the factorial structure of the screening tool in three different populations.

Method. The data were collected with the screening tool among a population based sample of young Finnish men in 2012–2013 (n = 1,450), among adult Finnish individuals with a high risk for metabolic syndrome (n = 571) in 2013–2014, and among Namibian university students (n = 271) in 2013–2014.

Analysis. Exploratory factor analyses were conducted separately on data collected from each of the populations.

Results. In the Finnish samples, the analyses gave further support for a three-factor structure of the screening tool. In the Namibian sample, a four-factor structure was found with the items related to confidence loading into two separate factors.

Conclusion. Based on these findings, we suggest that the different aspects of everyday health information literacy, for example, motivation, skills, and confidence, should be investigated separately but in parallel to each other. In further studies these factors will be investigated in relation to health behaviour and physical health.

Keyword. everyday life, health information, information skills

References

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- Niemelä, R., Ek, S., Eriksson-Backa, K. & Huotari, M.-L. (2012). A screening tool for assessing everyday health information literacy. *Libri* 62(2), 125–134.