



Comments on: Psychometric properties of the German version of the Fear of Falling Questionnaire-revised (FFQ-R) in a sample of older adults after hip or pelvic fracture

Fatih Özden¹

Received: 23 October 2020 / Accepted: 17 November 2020 / Published online: 3 January 2021
© Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2021

I read the recent article with great interest entitled “Psychometric properties of the German version of the Fear of Falling Questionnaire-revised (FFQ-R) in a sample of older adults after hip or pelvic fracture” by Dautel et al. [1]. The authors of the study aimed to demonstrate the cross-cultural adaptation, reliability, and validity of the German version of the Fear of Falling Questionnaire-revised (FFQ-R) in patients with hip or pelvis fracture. Questionnaires should be translated through internationally accepted procedures, and it is important to be validated after acceptability and adaptation processes. While I believe the publication provides an essential contribution to the literature, there are some methodological concerns that I would like to address which may affect the results of the study.

Firstly, the authors of the study stated that the back-translation method was used in the method section of the abstract. As can be seen in the method section in reference 30, “back-translation” is only one phase of the translation method. This method includes both “forward-translation”, “back-translation” and other adaptation phases. One of them is the pilot test that must be performed for acceptability. Before the main validation study, it is essential to check the questionnaire in terms of “pretest” comprehensibility. Indeed, in this reference number 30, Sperber et al. stated that a pilot test should be conducted with at least 30 individuals. However, Dautel et al. did not carry out or mentioned the pilot test phase. At this stage, the understandability of the statements in the questionnaire and the socio-cultural analysis should be carried out and corrections should be made when required [2].

Secondly, to analyze the construct validity, Spearman’s correlation coefficient was preferred by the authors of the study. They compared FFQ-R with German Short FES-I. Also, the correlation between the items of the FFQ-R was analyzed. Construct validity can be discussed under two headings as convergent and discriminant. For the construct validity analysis, it is important to check the “convergent validity” with a similar questionnaire that psychometric properties were previously revealed, and the “discriminant validity” with different sub-dimensions of the same gold standard questionnaire or a not similar questionnaire. However, it is controversial to analyze the correlation between the items of the questionnaire that has not yet been validated, especially for the items belonging to different sub-scales, and to expect a high correlation to demonstrate the construct validity [3].

Last but not least, the demographic information about the cultural level of the cases was not recorded or presented. Knowledge of the cultural level of cases is essential to describe this adaptation [4]. I would welcome the comments of the authors to address these issues, which will further provide additional information about their study.

Funding None.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author/s report no conflicts of interest and certify that no funding has been received for this study and/or preparation of this manuscript.

Ethical approval Not applicable.

Statement of human and animal rights This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

✉ Fatih Özden
fatihozden@mu.edu.tr

¹ Köyceğiz Vocational School of Health Services, Elderly Care Department, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, 48800 Köyceğiz, Muğla, Turkey

Informed consent Not applicable.

References

1. Dautel A, Gross M, Abel B et al (2020) Psychometric properties of the German version of the Fear of Falling Questionnaire-revised (FFQ-R) in a sample of older adults after hip or pelvic fracture. *Aging Clin Exp Res*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40520-020-01657-2>
2. Sperber AD (2004) Translation and validation of study instruments for cross-cultural research. *Gastroenterology* 126:S124–128
3. Terwee CB, Bot SD, de Boer MR et al (2007) Quality criteria were proposed for measurement properties of health status questionnaires. *J Clin Epidemiol* 60:34–42
4. Beaton DE, Bombardier C, Guillemin F et al (2000) Guidelines for the process of cross-cultural adaptation of self-report measures. *Spine* 25:3186–3191

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.