

The questions on violence (FOV) tool for interpersonal violence inquiry in Swedish healthcare settings – evaluation of content validity, face validity and test-retest reliability

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The FOV instrument has good content and face validity and good to excellent test-retest reliability. The FOV instrument is comprehensive instrument for identifying patients who have experienced or perpetrated different forms of interpersonal violence.

Background

Previous research indicates that routine inquiry or screening conducted by healthcare providers may significantly increase the identification of interpersonal violence. There is a lack of comprehensive instruments to routinely assess patients about interpersonal violence in the household.

The purpose of this study was to assess the content validity, face validity and reliability of the Questions on Violence (FOV) tool, an instrument designed for routine inquiries about interpersonal violence in healthcare settings within the Swedish context.

Method

The content validity, face validity and reliability of the FOV instrument was assessed through (1) a content validity index with six experts in the field of intimate partner violence, (2) cognitive interviews with nine patients recruited from a primary healthcare facility, and (3) an evaluation of the test-retest reliability based on responses from 37(50.0%) university students.



Results

Calculations based on the content validity index indicated that five out of seven items had excellent content validity (≥ 0.78). The average content validity index of included items was 0.88.

The cognitive interviews revealed that participants found the seven items to be relevant and easy to understand.

The value of the intraclass correlation coefficient was 0.85 (0.77–0.91; CI 95%), indicating good reliability with an interval of good to excellent test-retest reliability.

Items in the 'Questions about violence' (FOV) instrument

1. Have you ever been threatened, controlled, humiliated, harassed, or similar by someone close to you?
2. Have you ever been restrained, shoved, hit, kicked, or injured in some other way by someone close to you?
3. Have you ever felt pressured or forced to perform sexual acts by someone close to you?
4. Has someone who is NOT close to you ever been violent towards you as described in questions 1-3?
5. While growing up, did you ever see or hear violent acts against someone close to you as described in questions 1-3?
6. As an adult, have you ever been violent towards someone else as described in questions 1-3?