VALIDATION OF A NEW COMFORT SCALE FOR PROCEDURAL PAIN IN CHILDREN WITH BURN INJURIES

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

The aim of this study was to initiate the validation of the «Échelle d’observation comportementale du confort d’enfants brûlés» (OCCEB- BECCO), a new behavioral observation scale for evaluation of comfort in children less than 7 years old with burn injuries undergoing painful procedures.

METHODS

Following a methodological design for scale development and validation, the sample included 16 children aged from 7 to 54 months and 5 healthcare professionals experts in the care of burn victims. Participants were recruited from a pediatric university hospital in Montreal. Modified Delphi rounds were conducted to assess the content validity. Measures were also taken during wound care procedures to assess internal consistency and criterion validity using the FLACC scale. Measures were taken at T1 (2min), T2 (10 min) and T3 (20 min) after the beginning of the procedure.

RESULTS

Agreement between experts ranged from 90 to 95% regarding clarity and relevance of each item of the OCCEB-BECCO. Results also showed high criterion validity at (T1) r = 0,96 p < 0,0001, (T2) r = 0,95 p < 0,0001, and (T3) r = 0,95 p < 0,0001. A Cronbach alpha was of 0,82 was obtained for internal consistency.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

As comfort co-exists with pain, its assessment should be an integral part of pain management in children with burn injuries. The OCCEB-BECCO is a promising scale but will require further validation is needed with a larger sample.

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