

P-342 - RASCH ANALYSIS AND ITEM REDUCTION OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE 20-ITEM TORONTO ALEXITHYMIA SCALE (TAS-20-C) FOR ADOLESCENTS

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Introduction: The TAS-20 is a psychometrically validated instrument for assessing alexithymia in adult populations. However, the instrument is not well-established in adolescents.

Objective and aims: The objective of this study was to validate the Chinese version of the TAS-20 (TAS-20-C). Two studies aimed to produce a short form of the TAS-20-C and evaluate its subsequent factor structure in a sample of Chinese adolescents across different grade levels using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA).

Methods: The Mandarin version of the TAS-20-C was modified with respect to the local colloquial and was tested in two separate samples of Chinese adolescents. In Study 1 ($n=500$), Rasch modelling and principal component analysis (PCA) were performed to generate a short form of the TAS-20-C and to assess the psychometric properties of the scale. In Study 2 ($n=1294$), CFA assessed the fit of the factor structure derived from Study 1. Factorial invariance was also examined across grade levels using multigroup CFA.

Results: Results of Rasch analysis showed 9 items of the TAS-20-C retained the concepts of the original scale, resulting in a 9-item short form (TAS-9-C). PCA yielded a one-factor solution (accounting for 38% of the total variance, $r^2=0.40$). In addition, results of CFA confirmed the one-factor model and its invariance across different grade levels ($CFI \geq 0.959$). Internal consistency was good in the entire sample ($\alpha=0.83$).

Conclusions: The TAS-9-C is a reliable and valid instrument for use in adolescents across different grade levels. Future research on the specific role of alexithymia in explaining childhood psychopathology is desirable.