

Introduction

Social participation of people with aphasia (PWA) is a **growing concern** in healthcare. PWA report a **decrease in communicative initiative**, especially when it comes to **conversations with friends, reduction of communicative partners and social activities**. PWA also refer the existence of feelings of sadness, despair, anxiety and loneliness, lack of energy, low interest and motivation to start activities, low self-esteem and the feeling of being trapped. The **Social Activities Checklist - SOCACT** (1), measures the range and frequency of PWA social participation, the social partners in the activities and the difficulties in performing them (2,3). It is constituted by two sections: **Social Activities** and **Social Activities Partners**. Each section is composed of 20 social activities divided into three categories: **Leisure, Informal, and Formal** (2,3,4,5). In Portugal, the number of assessment tools capable of assessing these difficulties is scarce.

Aims

To translate the SOCACT to European Portuguese (EP) and analyse its validity and reliability for a group of Portuguese PWA and a group of neurologically healthy people (NHP).

Methodology

Phase 1 – Translation and Content Validation

Translation of SOCACT into EP

Experts Committee (N=6) evaluating the different versions

Back-Translation

Cognitive Debriefing – PWA group (N=5)

Qualitative analysis (individual and group interviews)
Content Validity Index (CVI)

PWA

7 men; 8 woman;
58.46 (+/-14.42)

Pilot Study

NHP

13 men; 17 women;
58.56 (+/-15.25)

Phase 2 – Application of the SOCACT to the PWA and NHP groups

Results

Phase 1 – Translation and Content Validation

- ❖ The experts found the SOCACT-EP and its instructions **easy to understand and to fill**, and with the **adequate length**. They considered it **relevant with clear and unambiguous questions**.
- ❖ For most questions, **CVI obtained was 1**, which shows a great agreement between experts regarding the different characteristics of the Checklist.

Phase 2 – Application of the SOCACT to the PWA and NHP groups

- ❖ **Internal Consistency (Cronbach's alpha)**: The total was **low for the PWA** and **acceptable for the NHP**. Both groups generally exhibit low scores across various categories (except the Formal category for the NHP);
- ❖ **Test-Retest**: In the **Social Activities section** there were **no major discrepancies regarding** the frequencies of activities carried by the PWA, showing **good reliability**. In the **Social Activities Partners section**, in more than half of the activities there were **no reliability**, as **PWA changed their opinion** in both assessments in relation to those with whom they carry out the activity.
- ❖ **Concurrent validity**: **Significant correlations were found** between SOCACT-EP and the Communication Disability Profile (CDP) participation items, especially for the “have to” and “wants to” dimensions of the latter.
- ❖ **Differences between Groups**: In the **Social Activities section**, some **activities differ greatly among the groups**: these activities belong to the Leisure and Informal categories. **PWA reported difficulties arising from aphasia and physical restrictions**; In the **Social Activities Partners section** we can also **found some differences** in all categories.

Categories	PWA (n=15)	NHP (n=30)	Statistical analysis results
SOCACT categories			
Leisure (M+/-DP)	9.66+/-1.71	9.36+/-2.10	U= 219.500 p =0.895
Cronbach's alpha	0.325	0.574	---
Formal (M+/-DP)	2.73+/-1.16	3.36+/-0.71	U=156.500 p =0.079
Cronbach's alpha	0.661	0.759	---
Informal (M+/-DP)	1.86+/-1.72	1.80+/-1.37	U=224.000 p =0.983
Cronbach's alpha	0.244	0.398	---
Total (M+/-DP)	14.26+/-3.78	14.53+/-3.32	U=222.500 p =0.957
Cronbach's alpha	0.660	0.773	---

Figure 1 – Categories characterisation

Conclusion

It is important to include a **more diverse sample of individuals with PWA**, representing various **cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, and varying degrees of aphasia severity**.

Further research on Social Participation and the SOCACT-EP is **required** to evaluate and adapt existing activities for Portuguese individuals with aphasia, considering varying degrees of aphasia to ensure effective engagement.

It is essential to **create additional assessment tools** for this area to assist individuals with aphasia in **achieving their goals and addressing their needs**.

References

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