Institut de Neurociències
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Development of an ICF-based instrument for assessing functioning in severe mental disorders

Gomaa S.M. Abdelhamid, Juana Gómez-Benito, Georgina Guilera, & Maite Barrios
Institute of Neurosciences, University of Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain)

Background

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) represents a universally accepted framework for describing functioning in any health condition.

Based on the comprehensive ICF Core Sets for **bipolar disorder** (Ayuso-Mateos et al., 2013), **depression** (Cieza et al., 2004), and **schizophrenia** (Gómez-Benito et al., 2017), the current study develops a measurement instrument for assessing functioning in patients with severe mental disorders, **in English and Spanish**.

Methods

The development of the ICF-based instrument is composed of three phases. **In the first phase**, as shown in **Fig 1**, all comprehensive ICF Core Sets categories from these mental health Core Sets were gathered, **retaining** those ICF **categories common** to the three mental health Core Sets. **Then**, common categories were converted into items and items' adequacy was assessed by a panel of experts.

In the second phase, the development of the scale was completed by cognitive interviews.

In the last phase, the psychometric properties of the scale were assessed.

Fig 1. Process of development the SF-SMDs

Results

In the first phase, a total of 34 ICF categories were retained as candidate categories, i.e., common features for the three mental health Core Sets, comprising 10 categories from *Body functions*, 14 from *Activities and participation* (Fig 2), and 10 from *Environmental factors* component. In the second phase, these categories were converted into items to further be subjected to adequateness assessment. The final version of the instrument was presented to experts and a large percentage of the items were confirmed.

Fig 2. Frequencies of the Comprehensive ICF Core Sets categories for schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder

Conclusion

Our study captures those common aspects of functioning in bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia and **proposes a brief instrument based on the ICF framework** to assess functioning in severe mental health disorders. The new instrument, named **“Screening of functioning in Severe Mental Disorders (SF-SMD)”**, proved to be suitable in terms of content validity; however, further studies are required to assess additional psychometric properties.

References

1. Ayuso-Mateos, J. L., Ávila, C. C., Anaya, C., Cieza, A., Vieta, E., & Group, and the B. D. C. S. E. (2013). Development of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Core Sets for bipolar disorders: results of an international consensus process. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 35(25), 2138–2146.
2. Cieza, A., Chatterji, S., Andersen, C., Cantista, P., Herceg, M., Melvin, J., ... de Bie, R. (2004). ICF Core Sets for depression. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*, (44 Suppl), 128–134.
3. Gómez-Benito, J., Guilera, G., Barrios, M., Rojo, E., Pino, O., Gorostiaga, A., ... Selb, M. (2017). Beyond diagnosis: the Core Sets for persons with schizophrenia based on the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1–11.