Title: Worker Role Interview: Testing the psychometric properties of the Icelandic version

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Major Finding: The results indicate that the Worker Role Interview provides a valid and reliable measurement of a client’s psychosocial ability for return to work.

Participants:
- 146 clients receiving occupational therapy and intending to return to work participated in this study.
  - 94 male clients and 52 female clients with a mean age of 39.5 ± 9.8 years.
  - Disabling conditions included orthopedic/musculoskeletal/soft tissue problems (92), mental health problems (30), medical problems (12), neurological disorders (9), sensory disorders (1), and disorders of unknown origin (2).

Method: Eleven interviews were conducted and videotaped by eleven different therapists. These videotapes were then reviewed and the WRI was rated by a different group of therapists. Twelve of the fourteen occupational therapists participating in the study then each completed interviews with clients on their caseloads. The total number of WRI ratings generated was 249.

Analysis: A many-faceted Rasch measurement (MFRM) approach was used to analyze the psychometric properties of the Icelandic version of the Worker Role Interview (WRI-IS).

Findings:
- Fifteen out of seventeen items were shown to demonstrate goodness of fit.
- The Icelandic WRI was consistent with the English and Swedish WRI in that the easiest items were the same, and “perception of work setting” was one of the most difficult items for client’s attempting to return to work.
- All therapists used the rating scale as expected and client performance was consistently rated.
- A total of 139 clients’ psychosocial abilities to return to work were consistently interpreted by the WRI.

Conclusion: The WRI-IS scale was used to accurately assess clients consistently, and the items on the WRI reflected a meaningful continuum of the construct of return to work; therefore, the WRI-IS can be used as a valid tool to assess ability to return to work.

Implications for future research: Future studies investigating whether the cause of misfit for the two identified items “perception of work setting” and “perception of family and peers” was administrative error should be conducted.

Evidence– based practice implications:
- The WRI-IS can be used as part of a replicable and evidence-based work rehabilitation program.
- Therapists intending to use the WRI-IS may need to be trained in administration beyond what is presented in the instruction manual.