



Reliability of the Autism Spectrum Disorder-Behavior Problems for Children (ASD-BPC)

Johnny L. Matson^{*}, Melissa L. Gonzalez, Tessa T. Rivet

Department of Psychology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, United States

Abstract

A considerable amount of attention has occurred with respect to the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) of children and youth. Furthermore, the rationale for using the most restrictive of the applied behavior analysis methods and medication has been largely based on the presence of severe challenging behaviors such as self-injury, aggression, and stereotypes. Despite the extensive treatment efforts, there has not been a scale developed specifically to address the screening and identification of these problem behaviors for children with ASD. The present study was specifically designed to report on the reliability and factor structure of a brief behavior problem inventory, which is part of a diagnostic battery for children suspected of evincing autism, PDD-NOS, or Asperger's syndrome. The initial psychometric properties of the Autism Spectrum Disorders-Behavior Problems for Children (ASD-BPC) are described and the implications for future research are presented.

© 2008 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: ASD-BPC; Autism Spectrum Disorders; Children; Challenging behaviors

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), a condition of neurodevelopmental origins (Rutter, 2005), were once considered rare, but are now viewed as a common childhood disorder with rates as high as 1 per every 150 children (Chen, Liu, Su, Huang, & Lin, 2007; Fombonne, 2005; Yeargin-Allsopp et al., 2003). This change in prevalence may be in part due to major changes in criteria that were put in place with DSM-IV (Fein et al., 1999). Furthermore, marked improvements have been noted in early childhood identification (Matson & Smith, 2007; Wolery & Garfinkle, 2002). However, in real world settings, Siklos and Kerns (2007) report that an average of 4.5 professionals were seen over a period of 3 years before a proper diagnosis was obtained. Thus, while a substantial number of ASD scales are available, most measure only autism, the measures are often labor intensive and they require professionals with a good deal of professional

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 225 578 4104; fax: +1 225 578 4125.

E-mail address: Johnmatson@aol.com (J.L. Matson).

experience to administer them (Matson, 2007a). This situation may in part explain the commitment of the United States congress to spend one billion dollars by 2011 which focuses primarily on detection and treatment of ASD (Colston, 2006).

The assessment and diagnostic situation is further complicated by the frequent co-occurrence of challenging behaviors (Dominick, Davis, Lainhart, Tager-Flusberg, & Folstein, 2007; Fox, Keller, Grede, & Bartosz, 2007; Machalicek, O'Reilly, Beretvas, Sigafoos, & Lancioni, 2007). These behaviors, which are most frequently associated with stereotypes, self-injury, aggression, and property destruction, are major impediments to learning, put added stress on the parents, and are highly stigmatizing to the child who displays them (Plant & Sanders, 2007). Despite this, no scale has been developed for assessment of challenging behaviors of children with ASD. Therefore, the assertion that assessment and classification research is still urgently needed, is no more evident than with challenging behaviors (Luteijn, Luteijn, Jackson, Volkmar, & Minderaa, 2000). And, it is particularly interesting that no such efforts have been made given that almost every possible parameter, except challenging behaviors, has been studied with various scaling methods for ASD children and adolescents (Filipek et al., 1999).

The purpose of this study then was to describe the initial psychometric qualities for a scale specifically designed to assess challenging behaviors of children in the three major ASD, Asperger's syndrome, PDD-NOS, and autism in a brief and reliably way. This goal was carried out in the context of a larger ASD battery, with tests specific to the diagnosis of ASD and comorbid psychopathology.

1. Method

1.1. Participants

Two-hundred eighteen children and adolescents between 2 and 16 years of age ($M = 7.69$; $S.D. = 3.14$) were studied. The bulk of those individuals tested were from Louisiana. However, children receiving outpatient services from California, Georgia, Connecticut, Michigan, and New York also participated. Participants were recruited from a variety of clinic and school settings, as well as community organizations. Ratings were based on parent report in the context of a larger ASD battery which also included measures of ASD, social skills, and comorbid psychopathology. More data on the demographics of the population studied are presented in Table 1.

A composite symptom checklist from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Text Revision, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV-TR) (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) and International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (World Health Organization, 1992) was used to clearly define the designation of ASD in the context of a consensus diagnosis involving multiple professionals and headed by a licensed psychologist. This method is considered the gold standard in the field (Matson, Wilkins, & Gonzalez, 2008; Prior et al., 1998). Inter-rater reliability, test-retest reliability, and internal consistency ($r = .89$; $r = .96$; $\alpha = .95$, respectively) of the checklist for a subset of the sample proved excellent (Matson, Gonzalez, Wilkins, & Rivet, 2007). Research criteria set for inclusion in the ASD group included two deficits in social interaction and one in another area of functioning (e.g., communication or repetitive behaviors/interests).

One-hundred and ten children met criteria for ASD and had diagnoses including autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder, PDD-NOS, nonverbal learning disability, anxiety disorders, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, depression, developmental delay, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, iodine deficiency disorder,

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/370951>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/370951>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)