AN ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL CONSISTENCY WITHIN OPUS IN UPPER EXTREMITY PROSTHESIS USERS

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Introduction

The need to measure and evaluate all aspects of the orthotics and prosthetics field has only grown over the past years. It is common to use self-reported instruments to help determine how satisfied patients are with their devices. One such instrument is the Orthotics and Prosthetics Users' Survey (OPUS)[1], which had been validated for various subpopulations. The objective of this research study was to determine the internal consistency of the OPUS instrument when applied to users of upper limb prostheses.

It is hypothesized that the survey will be a very reliable source to determine how satisfied patients are with their prosthesis due reaching a wide range of people and the anonymity of a survey to give true thoughts and opinions.

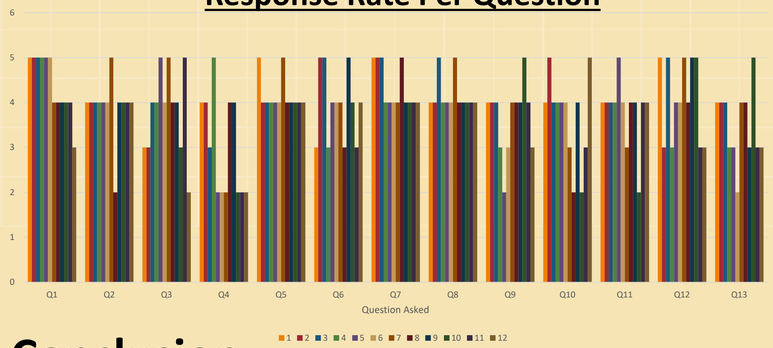
Methods

The original OPUS questions were slightly adapted to fit the population of upper extremity prosthetic users. An online survey was created using Qualtrics and was distributed through an online email forum, catering to prosthetists across the United States, with the intention of reaching the practitioners' patients. Survey responses were analyzed to determine the internal consistency (i.e., the reliability) of the tool. Cronbach's alpha tests how close the responses are to one another as a group. The calculated coefficient normally ranges between 0 and 1, the closer to 1, the higher is the internal consistency.

Results

A total of 12 responses was recorded. Cronbach's Alpha, calculated from responses on the Likert scale, was found to be 0.738. This can be interpreted as a semi-high internal consistency.

Response Rate Per Question



Conclusion

The OPUS survey for upper limb prosthesis users has good internal consistency, but there still is room for improvement and future research to be completed in order gain a more accurate representation of patient satisfaction.

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References

1. Heinemann, et al. (2003) Prost Orth Int, 27: 191-206.
2. Bravini, et al. (2014) Disabil & Health Jour, 7: 442-447.

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