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DOES TRAINING IMPROVE PERCEIVED COMPREHENSIBILITY, DIFFICULTY AND CONTENT VALIDITY OF THE PORTUGUESE SCORED PG-SGA?

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Rationale: The Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA; ©FD Ottery 2005, 2006, 2015) is a validated instrument to assess malnutrition and its risk factors. Untrained professionals may experience some difficulties in using the physical exam component of the PG-SGA. We aimed to study whether training in the PG-SGA improves comprehensibility, difficulty (knowledge), and content validity (relevance) of the Portuguese PG-SGA, as perceived by Portuguese healthcare professionals and students in Nutrition and Food Science.

Methods: 26 healthcare professionals (24 dietitians and 2 nurses) and 5 final year students in Nutrition and Food Science completed a questionnaire (70 items on comprehensibility; 35 on difficulty; 65 on content validity) using a 4-point Likert scale, pre- and post-PG-SGA training. Item and Scale Indices were calculated for comprehensibility (I-CI, S-CI), difficulty (I-DI, S-DI) and content validity (I-CVI, S-CVI). Scores ≥ 0.80 and ≥ 0.90 were considered acceptable and excellent, respectively. Wilcoxon signed rank test was used to test differences in S-CI, S-DI and S-CVI pre- and post-training.

Results: Scores on comprehensibility (S-CI: 0.970) were excellent pre-training and even higher post-training (S-CI: 0.999, $p < 0.001$). Acceptable difficulty (S-DI: 0.890) improved to excellent (S-DI: 1.000, $p < 0.001$), in which items related to the physical examination were best improved (maximum difference in I-DI: 0.258). Scores on content validity were excellent both pre- and post-training (S-CVI > 0.999 ; $p = 0.248$).

Conclusion: The PG-SGA was perceived as very comprehensible and relevant, both before and after training in the PG-SGA. Training in the PG-SGA helped Portuguese healthcare professionals and final year students in Nutrition and Food Science to further improve their knowledge on the PG-SGA.

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