Dear Editor,

Factor analysis (FA) is a statistical procedure widely used in psychological research, especially in evaluating latent variables. Despite its widespread popularity, in our milieu FA has an incipient use. FA is consistent with data reduction, as to determine the number and nature of factors represented by a pool of items and their correlation. Each factor captures items of the questionnaire with a similar pattern of variation among the studied individuals, hence having a probable common cause; for example, symptoms of depression. FA allows establishing which items belong to each factor and its influence on the construct that is being assessed with the test. Therefore, it is important to conduct FA before the Cronbach's alpha test (method concerned about the homogeneity of the scale items -internal consistency), because the latter assumes that there are correlations between items of the test.

Psychometrically tested instruments can add information for a more precise clinical judgment. When an instrument is adapted for another culture, it is crucial to re-test its factorial structure as it may vary, and results could become imprecise. In this regard, the article by Pereira et al. entitled “Factor structure of the Rutter Teacher Questionnaire in Portuguese children”, which examined psychometric properties of this Questionnaire (Rutter B2), is timely. They found good psychometric results could become imprecise. In this regard, the article by Pereira et al. entitled “Factor structure of the Rutter Teacher Questionnaire in Portuguese children”, which examined psychometric properties of this Questionnaire (Rutter B2), is timely. They found good psychometric properties, conducting both FA and internal consistency, assuring reliability. However, comparing to original and other versions, some properties, conducting both FA and internal consistency, assuring reliability. However, comparing to original and other versions, some items were associated with different factors and all three factors reliability. However, comparing to original and other versions, some properties, conducting both FA and internal consistency, assuring reliability. However, comparing to original and other versions, some items were associated with different factors and all three factors re-tested, even though some properties, conducting both FA and internal consistency, assuring reliability. However, comparing to original and other versions, some properties, conducting both FA and internal consistency, assuring reliability. 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In conclusion, the current study supports the importance of conducting FA before the Cronbach’s alpha test in order to ensure the reliability of the scores obtained with the Rutter B2 questionnaire.

Disclosures

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<tr>
<th>Writing group member</th>
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<th>Research grant</th>
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<tr>
<td>Érico de Moura Silveira Júnior</td>
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**Note:**

1. Moderate
2. Significant
3. Amounts given to the author’s institution or to a colleague for research in which the author has participation, not directly to the author.
4. Note: HCPA = Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre
5. For more information, see Instructions for Authors.

References


Rev Bras Psiquiatr.