

SN225

Validazione e valutazione psicométrica della versione italiana della scala di paura da COVID-19 (2020)

Validation and psychometric evaluation of the Italian version of the Fear of COVID-19 scale (2020)

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Methodological Notes

The advent of COVID-19 worldwide has led to consequences for people's health, both physical and psychological, such as fear and anxiety.

As the fear of coming into contact with individuals who may have been infected has been reported in the context of COVID-19 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2020a, b; Lin 2020), a new psychometric assessment tool assessing an individual's fear of COVID-19 was recently developed, i.e., the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S), a short and valid robust assessment scale (Ahorsu et al. 2020). Given the degree to which Italy has been hit by the spread of COVID-19, the present study tested the scale among individuals in the Italian population. The aims of the study were to

- examine the psychometric properties of the Italian the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S) utilizing confirmatory factor analysis (CFA);
- assess Fear of COVID-19 in an Italian sample using the Italian FCV-19S;
- confirm whether the Italian FCV-19S is unidimensional as was found in the original validation study by Ahorsu et al. (2020).

Sampling

A total of 249 participants (age 18 to 76 years) volunteered to take part in the study via an online survey posted in Italian online forums and social network communities (e.g., Facebook). The online survey took around 10–15 min to complete. Data collection occurred from 18 March to 21 March 2020. Inclusion criteria for volunteers were being (i) at least 18 years old and (ii) Italian-speaking citizens. All the participants completed the survey anonymously and gave their informed online consent. All procedures conducted were approved by the ethics committee of the Group Cognitive-Behavioral Psychotherapy Association.

Collected Information

Socio-demographics Parameters Questions concerning socio-demographic aspects of the participants (e.g., age, gender, educational level) were included in the online survey.

Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale In order to assess the anxiety and depression levels of participants, the Italian version of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) (Costantini et al. 1999) was used. The HADS (Zigmond and Snaith 1983) is a 14-item scale comprising seven items relating to anxiety and seven items relating to depression. Items are answered on a 4-point response format with a total score ranging from 0 to 21 for each of the two subscales. The higher the score, the more severe the anxiety or depression. Cronbach alphas in the present study were very good for the total scale (0.835) and good for the anxiety (0.722) and depression (0.721) subscales.

Severity Measure for Specific Phobia—Adult The Severity Measure for Specific Phobia—Adult (SMSP-A) (Knappe et al. 2013) is a 10-item scale that assesses the severity of specific phobias in individuals aged 18 and older (Italian version: Fossati et al. 2015). Each item asks individuals to rate the severity of their specific phobia during the past 7 days. Each item is rated on a 5-point scale from 0 (Never) to 4 (All of the time). The total score can range from 0 to 40 with higher scores indicating greater severity of the specific phobia. Cronbach's alpha in the present study was very good (.863).

Fear of COVID-19 Scale The FCV-19S (Ahorsu et al. 2020) is a seven-item scale that assesses the fear of COVID-19. The seven items are rated on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) with scores ranging from 7 to 35. The higher the score, the greater the fear of COVID-19. For the Italian FCV-19S, the items were independently translated by a mother-tongue translator and internationally accepted practices for translation were employed (Beaton et al. 2000). Additionally, the Italian FCV-19S was piloted on 15 participants of different ages and education levels to investigate if there were any problems in understanding the items themselves. To avoid the effect of the order and the sequence, the order of presentation of scales and the items within the surveys was randomized.

Contents of the Dataset

The dataset contains socio-demographic information (age, sex) and the FCV-19S scale translated into Italian only. The other information collected was excluded when the data were deposited in the data archive.

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