Family Quality of Life: Measurement and Validity

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Background
• Family quality of life (FQOL) is an umbrella construct that aims to capture different aspects of family life and level of functioning within these areas. (Bruininks et al., 1996)
• Interest in FQOL emerged as disability services began to become more focused on families. (Proctor et al., 2003)
• There is much need for further research to support the validity of FQOL measures.
• Outcomes of families with a child with DD may be impacted by:
  - social support
  - coping style
  - family hardness
  - self-efficacy
  - stress
• It is important to establish that FQOL as a whole is different from these other elements, but it is thought that they all play a factor in FQOL.

Purpose and Research Questions
1) Examine convergent and divergent validity of FQOL measure
   - Hypothesis: Portions measuring similar constructs will be highly correlated, while portions measuring unrelated constructs will show the opposite pattern
2) Examine how traditional family variables contribute to an overall FQOL score
   - Hypothesis: traditional family variables will all contribute significantly to the overall FQOL score

Participants
• N = 30
• Parents of children with DD
• Parents’ age 31-57 (24 mothers, 3 fathers, 3 both parents)
• Children’s age 6-17 (20 males, 10 females)

Measures
• Family Quality of Life Survey- 2006 (Brown et al., 2006)
  - 9 Domains: Health of the Family, Financial Well-Being, Family Relationships, Support from Other People, Support from Disability Related Services, Influence of Values, Careers, Leisure and Recreation, and Community Interaction
• Sum of Attainment and Satisfaction for each; Global FQOL=Sum of all 9

Results (continued)
GO4KIDD Surveys Sections as Predictors of Global FQOL Score

Results

Discussion
Convergent and Divergent Validity
• The domains of the FQOLS-2006 were mostly correlated in sensible ways with the constructs in the GO4KIDD Surveys, but were mostly lower than expected
• Limited support for convergent and divergent validity with these measures
• There were unexpected correlations between some constructs

Overall FQOL Score and Family Constructs
• Mental Health problems were the only significant predictors for the FQOLS-2006 Global Score, nothing else contributed to the regression model
• FQOL is more than just the sum of these variables and may be a broader concept

Limitations & Future Research
• Small sample, limited constructs in regression
• Most respondents were mothers, and usually only one family member
• The way in which the GO4KIDD Surveys measures were used may not be fully representative
• Future studies should explore the best ways to calculate a score, especially using both subjective and objective responses

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