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Translation and validation of HIV stigma scale in Taiwan

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Background: Literature shows that HIV infected patients often experience physical, mental and spiritual impact resulting from the stigma associated with the illness. However, in Taiwan, there is no appropriate instrument that assess the impact of HIV/AIDS stigma on patients.

Purpose: To develop a Chinese version of HIV Stigma Scale and to establish reliability and validity of the instrument.

Method: In this cross-sectional design, a purposive sample of 331 HIV infected individuals were recruited to test the reliability of the instrument. There are 4 phases of this study: translation and back translation for the development of the Chinese HIV Stigma Scale, establishment of construct validity and convergent validity, and verification of reliability.

Results: Four factors and 30 items emerged from explorative factor analysis: personalized stigma, negative self-image, concern with public attitudes, and disclosure concerns. The cumulative explained variance were 65.03%. The results of confirmatory factor analysis revealed 4 factors and 19 items that are consistent with the conceptual framework of stigmatization (GFI=0.92, AGFI=0.89, RMSEA=0.054). In addition, there is a significant positive correlation between the Chinese HSS instrument and the depression instrument Center of Epidemiological Study-Depression; (CES-D) ($r=0.53$; $p<0.01$). There was a good convergent validity. The Cronbach's α for the internal consistency is 0.92.

Conclusion/Application: The reliability and validity of the Chinese HIV Stigma Scale (CHSS) has been established in this study. The CHSS may be used to assess HIV stigma in practice, and to understand the cognitive, emotional, behavioral and social impact of stigma on HIV patients.

Biography

Chia-Hui Yu has completed her Master's from Chung Shan Medical University. She is the Director of Center of Quality Promotion, Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, and Lecturer at College of Nursing, Chung Shan Medical University. She also is a Doctoral student of College of Nursing, National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.

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