The Orthotics and Prosthetics Users' Survey
Translation and validity evidence for the Swedish version

av

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Akademisk avhandling

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Abstract


The Orthotics and Prosthetics Users’ Survey (OPUS) is a self-report instrument that assesses outcomes in users of prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) devices. The OPUS consists of the following five modules: Lower extremity functional status (LEFS), Upper extremity functional status (UEFS), Client satisfaction with device (CSD), Client satisfaction with services (CSS), and Health-related quality of life (HRQoL). The aims were to translate the OPUS into Swedish and to evaluate the validity evidence for using the OPUS with Swedish users of P&O devices. This was investigated over the course of four separate studies in which the OPUS was translated into Swedish using a systematic procedure, patients were interviewed, and answers on the OPUS were analysed using Rasch analysis and other statistical methods. Persons of different ages and sexes using different kinds of prostheses, orthoses, insoles, or orthopaedic shoes participated in the studies.

After a few adjustments the OPUS modules were understood by the patients in the intended way. The rating scales functioned well and only the rating scale of CSS needed adjustments. The unidimensionality was strong for the LEFS and UEFS but the UEFS needs improvements to be useable with users of upper limb prosthesis. Unidimensionality was weak for the CSD and CSS. The HRQoL was divided into two subscales that demonstrated moderate unidimensionality. It is possible to use the OPUS to compare patients from Sweden and the United States and to compare patients with different demographic characteristics. Person and item reliability was moderate to excellent, and test-retest reliability was good. The OPUS could discriminate between some of the patient groups known to be different.

The evidence in this thesis supports using OPUS to evaluate patient-relevant outcomes in Swedish users of P&O devices. This is important in promoting evidence-based programs that can benefit the patients. The results also highlight issues that need attention in future studies.

Keywords: Artificial limbs, orthotic devices, outcome assessment, validation studies, reproducability of results, activities of daily living, patient satisfaction, quality of life.

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