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Validity and reliability of the Persian version of neonatal pain, agitation, and sedation scale

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Background: The Neonatal Pain, Agitation, and Sedation Scale (N-PASS) is a tool that, in addition to assessing pain, also considers the level of sedation in infants. This study aimed to translate and determine the psychometric properties of pain and sedation parts of the N-PASS in neonates.

Methods: Two evaluators observed 70 non-intubated and 30 intubated infants admitted to the neonatal ward and neonatal intensive care unit. Totally, 1000 observations were done to assess discriminant and criterion validity, internal consistency, and inter-rater reliability.

Results: The discriminant validity of both the sedation and pain parts of the Persian version of N-PASS (PN-PASS) was confirmed by significantly increasing the pain score during the painful procedures compared to the rest time. The criterion validity of the PN-PASS was approved by the high correlation (r = 0.85) between the Premature Infant Pain Profile and the PN-PASS. The intraclass correlation coefficient between the two evaluators was in the range of r = 0.71-0.92, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient during non-painful and painful procedures was in the range of $\alpha = 0.57$ and $\alpha = 0.86$.

Conclusion: This study showed that the Persian version of N-PASS is valid and reliable in assessing pain and sedation in term and preterm infants. Increases in some item scores were related more to the mechanism of the procedures than to the painful nature of the stimuli.

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Biography

Mehdi Heidarzadeh got bachelor of nursing from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran in 2002, master of science in nursing from Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran in 2006, and PhD of nursing from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran in 2014. Now he is an associates professor of the Nursing department of Ardabil University of Medical Sciences, Ardabil. He is working in Kamkar-Arabnia hospital as a nurse in 2002 and 2003. He had worked as an instructor of nursing in Azad University for 7 years as a faculty member from 2006 to 2012. My fields of study are most in heart disease and cancer.

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