Author's response to reviews

Title: Construct validity of a figure rating scale for Brazilian adolescents

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To Editor

Dear Professor,

Thank you for the attention on our manuscript. As suggested, we have re-written the manuscript in order to improve it. We also thank the referees for their suggestions that really improved the manuscript. We hope the present version can be accepted for publication on this important journal.

With our best wishes.

The authors

To Dr. Samuele Cortese:

Dear Dr. Samuele Cortese,

We very much appreciate you for your highly constructive reviews to our submission. We have revised the material to eliminate the issues raised. The added or modified words, phrases, and sentences are in red. We hope the present version can be accepted.

“The abstract states "background" but actually the “background” section reports only the aim...please provide a short background...why is this study important?”

Answer: Based on the reviewer’s comment, we added the following sentence in the Abstract (Abstract, Background):

“Figure rating scales were developed as a tool to determine body dissatisfaction in women, men, and children. However, it lacks in the literature the validation of the scale for body silhouettes previously adapted.”

“The study was carried out with adolescent students attending three public schools in an urban region of the municipality of Florianopolis in the State of Santa Catarina (SC)” should come before “the sample comprised...””

Answer: The sentence were placed before “The sample comprised...”. The new sentence is presented as it follows (Abstract, 4th line):

“The study was carried out with adolescent students attending three public schools in an urban region of the municipality of Florianopolis in the State of Santa Catarina (SC). The sample comprised 232 10-19-year-old students, 106 of whom are boys and 126 girls, from the 5th "series" (i.e. year) of Primary School to the 3rd year of Secondary School.”

“results: “The construct validity hypothesis was that heavier adolescents would choose larger body contour shapes; and that in girls, body image dissatisfaction would
increase as BMI z-scores rose.” The hypothesis does not belong to the result section, but to the background, after the aims!!”

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the important observation. We removed this sentence from the Results and included it in the Background (Background, last paragraph, 4th line):

“The Stunkard & Sorensen scale [19] was validated in Brazil for the adult population [2]. However, no data have yet been published on the validation of the scale for body silhouettes adapted by Childress et al [18]. The objective of this study is therefore to describe evidence of construct validity for the Childress et al. [18] figure rating scale in Brazilian adolescents. The construct validity hypothesis was that heavier adolescents would choose larger body contour shapes; and that in girls, body image dissatisfaction would increase as BMI z-scores rose.”

“Introduction:
“Body dissatisfaction is associated with the etiology”: more than an etiologic factor, it’s a risk factor..”

Answer: We appreciate the relevant comment of the referee that helped us to avoid misunderstood in interpreting the text. We remade this sentence (Background, 2nd paragraph):

“Body dissatisfaction is considered as more than an etiologic factor, it is also a risk factor. Moreover, it is also associated with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia and binge eating, above all in women [4-7]. Other outcomes related to body dissatisfaction are attempted suicide [8] and depression [9].”

“Although the authors explain the reasons why they chose the scale adapted by adapted by Childress et al, they should also mention other available tools, such as the tool by Veron-Guidry S, Williamson DA. Development of a body image assessment procedure for children and preadolescents. Int J Eat Disord.1996;20:287-293.)”

Answer: We thank the referee for the suggestion. We inserted a new sentence to provide this information (Discussion, last paragraph, 1st line):

“Although we described the reasons for choosing the scale adapted by adapted by Childress et al [18], it is also important to mention the existence of other relevant available tools well recognized in the literature such as the Veron-Guidry and Williamson’s tool [32].”

“Under construct validation hypothesis:” the present study will correlate data”…this is more pertinent to a grant text..in the paper, authors are advised to use the past tense (“in the present study we correlated..”)”

Answer: We corrected this mistake and remade the sentence (Method, Construct Validation Hypothesis, 3rd paragraph, 3rd line):

“To test whether there is construct validity, in the present study we correlated…”
“I think that the discussion is generally good but lacks of information about possible application of this tool…the author may want to mention, as possible application, the study in the general population on the correlation between body image dissatisfaction and BMI by means of novel statistical approaches such as spline function and cite for example The relationship between body mass index and body size dissatisfaction in young adolescents: spline function analysis. Cortese S, Falissard B, Pigaiani Y, Banzato C, Bogoni G, Pellegrino M, Vincenzi B, Angriman M, Cook S, Purper-Ouakil D, Dalla Bernardina B, Maffeis C. J Am Diet Assoc. 2010 Jul;110(7):1098-102.”

Answer: We really appreciate the reviewer for the kind comment and reference suggestion. We included the following sentence in the Discussion section (Discussion, last paragraph, 2nd line):

“We may consider our findings as a tool able to perform an association between body image dissatisfaction and BMI by means of novel statistical approaches such as spline function [33].”

To Dr. Emanuela Gualdi:

Dear Dr. Emanuela Gualdi,

We thank you very much for your relevant review. Based on your suggestions and critiques, we have made the changes cited below. The added or modified words, phrases, and sentences are in red. We hope the present version can be accepted.

“This is a study adding to the growing literature on the use of the body image figures as a health information resource on the weight status. The validity of an eight-figure rating scale was analyzed in a sample of Brazilian adolescents.

The present study was clearly worthwhile, trying to give evidence of a valid relation between body image perception and BMI. The paper should be published after minor and discretionary revisions. First of all, I have a general question: why was the nutritional status assessed only in terms of normal or overweight? Were there no underweight adolescents”

Answer: We thank the reviewer for raising this important issue. The nutritional status was assessed only in terms of normal or overweight because there were no underweight adolescents. We added this relevant information in the Discussion section (Discussion, 1st paragraph, 2nd line):

“In this study, the nutritional status was assessed only in terms of normal or overweight because there were no underweight adolescents.”

“Then I suggest the following Minor Essential Revisions:
• p4 last paragraph: With regard to the great range of ages considered (10-19-year-old students), the mean weight and height of the whole sample should be omitted as of little significance from a biological point of view.
• p6 Anthropometric Measurements: The description of anthropometric techniques is too brief, and omits important information such as the bibliographic references. Please add them.”
Answer: p4 last paragraph. We agree with the referee. According to the reviewer’s suggestion, we removed data regarding weight and height.

p6 Anthropometric Measurements. Based on the referee’s suggestion, we remade the first sentence and included the following references:


We remade the following sentence (Method, page 6, Anthropometric Measurements):

“Anthropometric Measurements: weight and height were measured by researchers using internationally accepted techniques [23, 24] under supervision of pediatricians from the daycare centers and all data were collected from records of child care using a standardized form.”

“Discretionary Revisions:
• p6 line 14 from the top: whether possible, replace please the brackets with the symbol of absolute value (vertical lines). In any case, the two vertical lines may be omitted when DDBS = 0.”

Answer: According to the reviewer’s comments, we removed the vertical lines.