

TURKISH VERSION OF VOICES ACCEPTANCE AND ACTION QUESTIONNAIRE (VAAS): PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY



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BACKGROUND

In recent years, there has been growing evidence which shows effectiveness of psychotherapy in psychosis using acceptance and mindfulness methods (1, 2, 3, 4). The role of acceptance especially in managing auditory hallucinations seems promising (1, 2, 5). VAAS (Voices Acceptance and Action Scale) is a self-report scale which has been developed for assessing acceptance-based attitudes and actions regarding to auditory hallucinations (6). This study aims to examine psychometric properties of the Turkish version of this scale.

METHOD

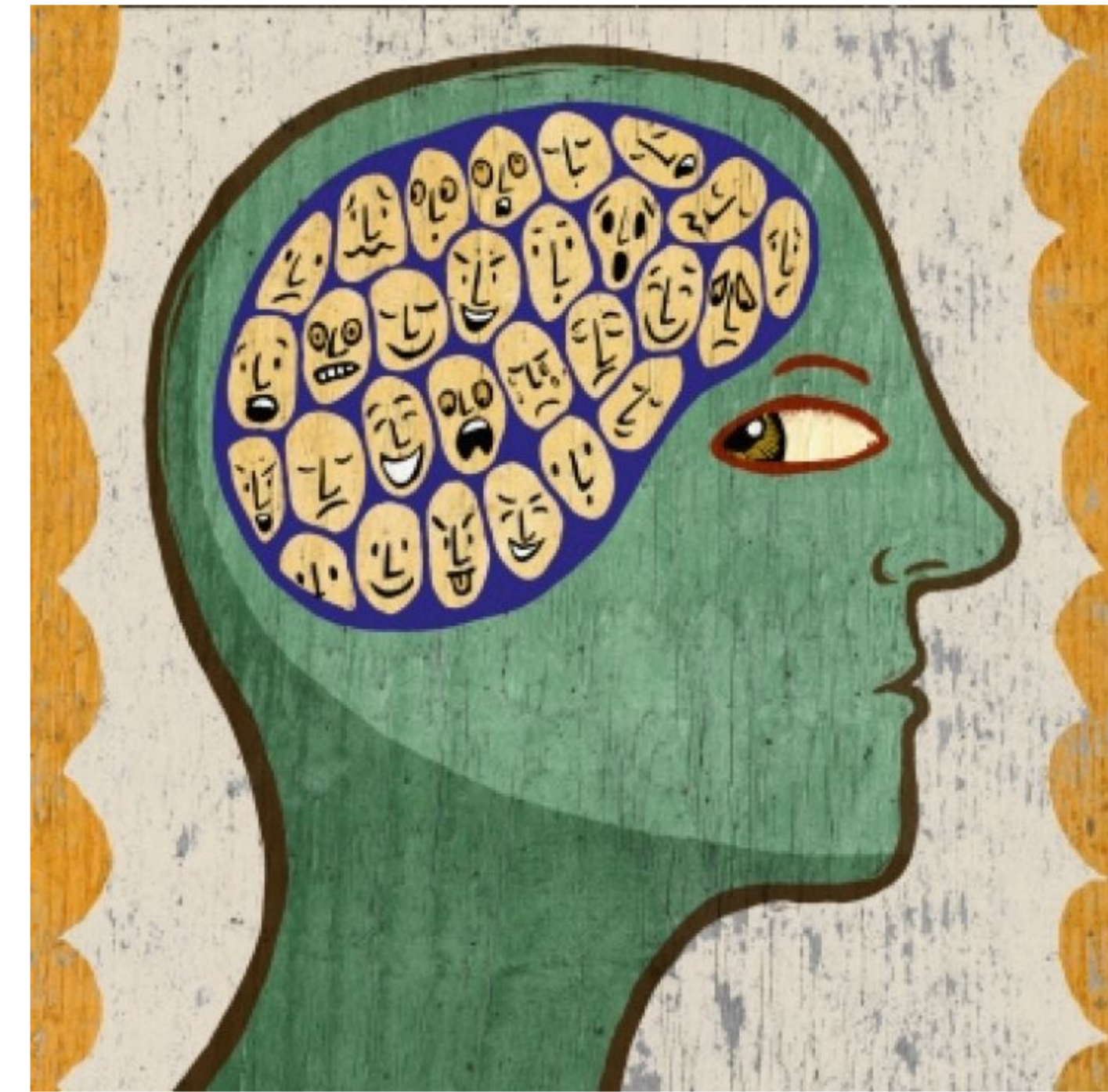
- ✓ The study group consisted of 50 psychotic patients with auditory hallucinations.
- ✓ The scale was translated by two independent person and then corrected by the authors.
- ✓ Patients were administered:
 - Socio-demographic data form
 - Turkish version of VAAS (TVAAS)
 - Acceptance and Action Questionnaire-II (AAQ-II)
 - Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms (SAPS) – Hallucinations
 - Quality of Life Scale for Schizophrenic Patients
 - Psychotic Symptom Rating Scale (PSYRATS) - Auditory Hallucinations
 - Revised Beliefs About Voices Questionnaire (BAVQ-R)
- ✓ Internal consistency and split-half analyses were performed to evaluate the reliability.
- ✓ Validity analyses were also conducted.

Correlations					
		AAQ-II	SAPS-H	QoL	PSYRATS-AH
TVAAS	Pearson Correlation	-.351*	-.091	.296	-.140
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.021	.562	.054	.371

		BAVQ-R Mal	BAVQ-R Ben	BAVQR Omn	BAVQ-R Ang	BAVQ-R Res
TVAAS	Pearson Correlation	-.171	.006	-.553**	-.081	.125
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.273	.972	.000	.607	.425

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).



RESULTS

- ✓ Reliability analysis using corrected item total statistics led 4 items to be removed from the scale.
 - Items 10, 18, 27, 29 were removed.
- ✓ All scales showed good internal consistency. Cronbach's Alpha coefficients were calculated;
 - 0.855 for the scale
 - 0.70 for the 'Acceptance' subscale
 - 0.818 for the 'Action' subscale
- ✓ Split-half reliability of the scale was $r=0.85$.
- ✓ TVAAS correlated in the expected direction with AAQ-II and Quality of Life Scale and showed good convergent validity ($r=351$, $r=296$).
- ✓ As expected, it didn't correlate with symptom measurements and BAVQ-R subscales except omnipotence subscale.

DISCUSSION

VAAS has been found to be a reliable and valid measure to assess the psychological impact of voices in Turkish psychotic patients. Also it can be said that TVAAS assess different processes according to BAVQ-R.

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