

P-1301 - CROSS-CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SYNDROME SCALE (PANSS) AMONG EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE RATERS

B.Rothman, A.Khan, M.Opler, L.Bhargava

¹ProPhase LLC, ²New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

Introduction: In clinical trials, good inter-rater reliability reduces error and influences statistical power. PANSS rater differences across cultures are rarely investigated.

Objectives: To conduct a cross-cultural analysis for European and Japanese PANSS raters, theorized to have unique frames of reference for schizophrenia assessments.

Aims: To examine reliability with Gold Standard scores (GS); to compare PANSS subscales.

Methods: There were 170 raters from Europe (73) and Japan (97). *Analysis:* scale-level for internal consistency (Cronbach α) and inter-rater reliability (ICC); item-level using Rasch and Differential Item Functioning (DIF).

Results: Internal consistency for PANSS Positive, Negative, and General Psychopathology subscales exceeded $\alpha = .99$ for both groups. ICCs were higher for Europeans for all subscales. The average Inter-Item Correlation (IIC) with GS was highest for the Positive subscale (Europe, $r = .901$; Japan, $r = .883$). Average IIC with GS was lowest for both groups for the Negative subscale (Europe, $r = .453$; Japan, $r = .323$). For Negative items, accuracy with GS for Europeans was 46.58% to 89.04%, and 18.56% to 73.20% for Japanese. For PANSS Total, the average IIC was $r = .721$ (Europe) and $r = .659$ (Japan). European raters endorsed higher scores on P1.Delusions, P7.Hostility, N1.Blunted Affect, N5. Abstract Thinking. Japanese raters endorsed higher scores on N7.Stereotyped Thinking.

Conclusions: There were significant differences in several PANSS items, possibly due to disparities between original and translated scale versions, cultural differences in interpreting items, or PANSS scoring parameters. Identifying culturally problematic items can help to tailor PANSS training to diverse geographic regions.