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ORIGINAL PAPER

Reliability and Validity of Child Posttraumatic Stress-Revised Instrument in Malay Language among Malaysian Adolescents

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Abstract

Background: Most PTSD screening tools for children and adolescents have been validated in Western contexts which is not necessarily generalizable to non-western cultures. Therefore, the objective of this cross-sectional study was to determine the psychometric properties of the Child Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index (CPTS-RI) within a Malaysian population. **Methods:** Eighty-five adolescents aged 13- to 14-years-old completed the CPTS-RI, Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ) and Hopkins Symptom Checklist scale (HSCL). **Results:** Results showed a good internal consistency for the overall scale ($\alpha = .92$), for the subscale -re-experience, avoidance and arousal subscales ($\alpha = .89$, $\alpha = .73$, $\alpha = .56$ respectively) and for different gender groups and ethnicity. CPTS-RI demonstrated good construct and divergent validity, and showed good concurrent validity with the use of HTQ and HSCL as the criterion measure. **Conclusion:** Findings suggest that CPTS-RI is a valid and reliable instrument to assess PTSD symptoms among Malaysian adolescents.

Keywords: Validity, Reliability, CPTS-RI, Malaysian Adolescents

Introduction

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychological disorder in which an individual develops a prolonged stress response syndrome after life-threatening events. Following lifetime exposure to traumatic events, PTSD is a common diagnosis for some individuals^{1,2}. Previous studies report that children and adolescents are highly exposed to traumatic events. Estimates suggest approximately 40-90% of the population has a history of at least one lifetime trauma exposure¹⁻⁴. Recent studies

conducted in the Asian region report that the prevalence of exposure to at least one traumatic event is also high, in the range of 78.1% in India⁵, 82% in China⁶, 77% in Japan⁷ and 83% in Malaysia⁸.

Children and adolescents who have a history of traumatic or negative life events are vulnerable to the development of PTSD⁹. Empirical data has shown that individuals who experience traumatic events during childhood or adolescence suffer from more severe forms of PTSD than those who experience trauma later in life¹⁰. Child and