Ponencias y Comunicaciones

AENTDE

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

I.S.B.N.: 978-84-616-8248-5
Edita: AENTDE
Feixa Llarga, s/n
L'Hospitalet de Llobregat
Sevilla Abril 2014

Cómo citar este libro:
Asociación Española de Nomenclatura, Taxonomía y Diagnósticos de Enfermería. AENTDE. (Editores). X Simposium
AENTDE. “Lenguaje enfermero: identidad, utilidad y calidad". Sevilla. AENTDE. 2014.

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MODEL TO ESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF CLINICAL CASES

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PALABRAS CLAVE

Nursing diagnosis; validation studies; Rasch

INTRODUCCIÓN

One of the most problematic issues to develop written case studies is to estimate their difficulty level.

OBJETIVOS

To verify the feasibility of Rasch analysis to estimate the level of difficulty of a written case study.

MATERIAL Y MÉTODO

Methodological study. Secondary analysis of data from 23 Brazilian baccalaureate nursing students (Lopes et al., 2013) who were asked to: 1) read case study reporting a clinical situation of a woman in treatment of bronchopneumonia, and 2) rate how much they are certain to state that each of 20 elements (nursing diagnoses, defining characteristics and risk factors) was present in the clinical case, assigning values: present=1, possibly present=0.75, I don't know=0.5, possibly absent=0.25 and absent=0. Values assigned by the students were compared to values recommended by experts. Differences between student and experts' ratings for each element were then entered for Rasch analysis (Bigsteps software®) in order to estimate the level of difficulty. The level of difficulty is presented in logits, ranging from -3 to 3, ordering the elements of the easiest to most difficult, respectively.

RESULTADOS

The ratings of the 20 elements were ordered from -3 to.94 logits, yielding an average of.00 (SD.70). Ten elements were arranged below 0 logits (-3;-3;-1.87;-.97;-.52;-.52;-.41;-.31;-.31;-.14) and 10 elements above (.01;.24;.24;.34;.48;.56;.60;.74;.91;.94). These estimates suggest the written clinical case study we tested does not reach a high level of difficulty to this population.

CONCLUSIONES

The proposed model allows estimating the level of difficulty of clinical cases in specific populations and has implications for teaching and research on clinical reasoning, particularly on diagnostic reasoning.

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