

ABSTRACT

With this work, I became involved in an ongoing project of tool validation for measuring psychological trauma within the activities of the National Institute of Mental Health – Validation of tools for measuring psychological trauma. The aim of this thesis was to collect data from a clinical population with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and compare it with the results of diagnostic methods in the general population (N=303). The research clinical sample consisted of 31 respondents who, based on diagnostic criteria for PTSD diagnosis according to DSM-5, were divided into two research groups – with a probable PTSD diagnosis (N=17) and without a probable PTSD diagnosis (N=14).

In this work, the results of three research groups were compared using the PTSD Checklist 5 method, which assesses the level of traumatization, and the Life Events Checklist-5 method, which examines the frequency of experienced traumatic events. At the same time, measurement of depressive and anxious symptoms of all participants was conducted to assess convergent validity. The results of statistical analysis showed that the PCL-5 method proved to be valid. The group with a probable PTSD diagnosis achieved statistically significantly higher values than the general population group, even in the results of methods measuring the level of anxiety and depression. The group without a probable diagnosis did not achieve statistically significantly higher values compared to the control group in any of the analyzed methods. The Life Events Checklist-5 (LEC-5) method is a reliable indicator based only on the number of experienced traumatic events. However, the results of the statistical analysis did not confirm its validity in assessing the severity of PTSD symptoms. The group with a probable diagnosis did not achieve statistically significantly higher values in the results of the LEC-5 method.

The theoretical part of the work outlines the topic of trauma and PTSD, provides a brief overview of history, and then describes the etiology of PTSD and risk factors for the disorder. Subsequently, comorbidities of PTSD, treatment of the disorder, and the last part of the theoretical overview focus on the diagnosis and diagnostic methods of PTSD.

KEYWORDS

Trauma, PTSD, validation, diagnosis, diagnostic methods