A PSYCHOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE AMBULATORY SURGERY INVENTORY OF NAUSEA, VOMITING, AND RETCHING (AS-INVR)
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Introduction: The Ambulatory Surgery Inventory of Nausea, Vomiting, and Retching (AS-INVR) was developed after an evaluation of the Rhodes Index of Nausea and Vomiting in an ambulatory surgery population. The psychometric properties of the AS-INVR have not been examined in ambulatory surgery patients.

Purpose: The aims of this study were to investigate the dimensionality, internal consistency, and construct validity of the AS-INVR.

Methodology: Data for this secondary analysis were collected in a descriptive study of the incidence of nausea, vomiting, and retching and management strategies used by 203 adult patients after ambulatory surgery. Data were from day of surgery to day-5 post-surgery. Dimensionality was assessed using exploratory factor analysis. Cronbach’s alpha was used to assess internal consistency. Correlational analysis was used to investigate construct validity.

Results: Factor analysis revealed the presence of two factors: nausea and vomiting. Item 2 (distress from retching) loaded on both components over the 5 days so further analyses were conducted on a 6-item version (AS-INV). Cronbach’s alpha was greater than .80 for both the 6-item shortened version and 7-item AS-INVR. Higher AS-INV scores were associated with self-reported degree (0-10) of nausea and vomiting. Higher scores were also correlated with lower quality of life scores.

Discussion: The findings support the deletion of Item 2 for a 6-item AS-INV and its internal consistency in this sample of adult ambulatory surgery patients. The significant associations of the 6-item AS-INV with scores on the 0 – 10 scale of nausea and vomiting and quality of life provided support for the construct validity of the shortened instrument.

Conclusion: The AS-INV is a short, easy to administer instrument for measuring nausea and vomiting in adults after ambulatory surgery. The findings of this study support the internal consistency and construct validity of this shortened version.

Implications: This instrument provides an alternative method to measure the amount and distress of nausea and vomiting in adult patients after ambulatory surgery. Future large-scale studies should examine the psychometric properties of the 6-item AS-INV.