

Reliability and Validity of a Turkish Version of the Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire

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Objective The aim of this study is to perform validity and reliability examination of the Turkish form of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire, and to investigate whether this scale is a measurement tool for evaluation of psychological flexibility levels in a sample of patients with diabetes in Turkey.

Methods This study was conducted with 105 patients. Turkish forms of the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), Problem Areas in Diabetes Questionnaire (PAID), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-I and STAI-II), Audit of Diabetes-Dependent Quality of Life (ADDQoL) and Turkish form of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire (TAADQ) were applied. SPSS 20.0 and AMOS was used in statistical analysis.

Results 56.12% of the patients were female and the mean of age was 54 (SD=±9.9) years. The mean duration of education was found 7.65 (SD=3.97) years. 74.8% of the patients most of whom (83.3%, n=85) had diabetes mellitus and the mean glycemic control calculated with HbA1c was 8.02±1.91. According to the final fit indices, we found that the revised and corrected 9-item model was superior over the previous model. Cronbach Alpha coefficient of TAADQ was found as 0.836.

Conclusion TAADQ is a valid and reliable assessment tool in Turkish population. So TAADQ will be a powerfull tool in assessing psychological flexibility in diabetes patients. Psychiatry Investig 2019;16(6):418-424

Key Words Acceptance and action, Diabetes, Reliability and validity, Turkish version.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes, which affects many systems as well as mental health, is a common disease and when considering the mortality and higher health care costs due to its management and treatment become important. Patients with diabetes are diagnosed with depression by 2 to 4 times more frequent compared to the non-diabetics.3-6 Recurrent physical and emotional burdens that often accompany diabetic self-management have been proposed to play an important role in the increased risk for depression.⁷ Because persons do not consider shortand long-term complications of the disease, they may have

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difficulty in acceptance of lifestyle changes, and encounter with depression, anxiety and similar psychiatric problems.8 Depression and anxiety disorders in diabetic persons are characterized by depressed mood, decreased energy and attention, sense of guilt, poor concentration, weight loss, decrease or increase in appetite, sleep disorders, thoughts of death and suicidal ideation and dysfunction.9

Treatment process of diabetes is often long and challenging. As in almost all chronic diseases, attitudes and approaches of person toward diabetes and its treatment may affect the prognosis.10 For example, it is known that acceptance of the disease and the difficulties it brings is challenging. 11 Compliance to treatment in diabetes has been shown to increase glycemic control.¹² High prevalence of negative psychological processes and the difficulties due to medical therapy process given raise to the need for development of psychotherapeutic interventions. Accordingly, possible effect of the cognitive-behavioral therapies (CBT) both on anxiety and depression, and on improvement of glycemic control have been studied in recent years. Reviews and meta-analyses including CBT studies on

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this issue indicate that CBT provided significant decreases in anxiety and depression levels, but did not show a substantial effect on glycemic control. 13,14 However, Grey et al. 15 achieved significant results such as lower glycosylated hemoglobin, higher diabetic and medical self-sufficiency, and decreased effect of diabetes on quality of life. Their group therapy protocol included 6 weekly sessions and monthly visits over the 12 months of follow up was applied to 77 patients with diabetes in 12-20 age group.

Some coping strategies have been found to have negative effects in stress reduction and providing ideal compliance to treatment during the treatment process. For example, a coping method like avoidance has been shown as a factor preventing compliance to treatment in diabetes. 16 Supporting this result, non-acceptance of diabetes by the person has been found to be significantly associated with low active coping, decreased selfcare, high HbA1c levels, elevated diabetes related stress, and increased depressive symptoms.¹⁷ Again, high capacity of coping with the disease¹⁸ and low HbA1c levels¹⁹ have been shown in persons with high acceptance. In this direction, it has been found that acceptance-based new generation cognitive-behavioral therapies may be effective in diabetes management and associated mental problems. 20,21 Unlike the traditional CBT approaches, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) targets the development of acceptance and mindfulness strategies instead of control and elimination strategies toward negative experiences, skills of 'defusion' from verbal processes and exhibition of commitment in line with the values selected by the person.²² Within this context, goal of ACT is to develop the wellness model which is defined as psychological flexibility, in persons. Psychological flexibility can be defined as "the ability to contact the present moment fully to make contact with internal experiences-without judgement or defense against them-and ability to take action in line with the values".23 Psychological flexibility model has been associated with many clinical conditions as well as diabetes related chronic fatigue and quality of life.24 There are studies showing positive effect of ACT interventions, based on psychological flexibility, on stress accompanying to diabetes in children and young persons,²⁵ depression, psychological well-being and feeling of guilt.26

Given the above mentioned data, importance of acceptance based process in coping with diabetes and associated psychological problems becomes apparent. Education and therapy programs aimed to improve psychological flexibility related skills can be considered as effective application candidates supporting the treatment. As the first example of such intervention; in a randomized controlled trial by Gregg et al.²⁷ on patients with type-2 diabetes, ACT+education group was compared with education alone group in terms of self-care, HbA1c levels, diabetes focused self-management, and psychological flexibility skills. Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire was developed in this study in order to evaluate psychological flexibility model that founds significant iimprovements in ACT+educational group in terms of self-care and HbA1c levels. High internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha 0.94) was found in the analysis carried out. However, as far as we know any statistical study for construct validity of the questionnaire has not yet been conducted until the time of the present study.

The aim of this study is to assess the validity and reliability of the Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire (AADQ), and to investigate whether this scale is an appropriate measurement tool for evaluation of psychological flexibility levels in a sample of patients with diabetes in Turkey. By this way, a valid evaluation tool can be provided for acceptance and psychological flexibility based interventions and studies to be conducted in patients with diabetes in Turkey.

METHODS

Ethics committee approval for the study was received from Ankara Numune Training & Research Hospital (E-14-163/ 2015). Permission for translation of the scale to Turkish was obtained from the authors who have developed the original questionnaire, and the translation process was carried out by three researchers who have a good command of English language and have been specialized in the relevant field. Translation-retranslation process was performed by a professional translator who had no interest in psychopathology related issues and knew two languages. After the re-translation, original and re-translated versions of AADQ were compared and the final version was created.

The participants were asked to fill out Turkish forms of the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), Problem Areas in Diabetes Questionnaire (PAID), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-I and STAI-II), Audit of Diabetes-Dependent Quality of Life (ADDQoL) and Turkish version of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire (TAADQ). The TAADQ were applied to nineteen participants again two weeks after the first measurement for test retest analysis (Supplementary Materials in the online-only Data Supplement).

Subjects

154 patients who were admitted to the Endocrinology Outpatient Clinic of Hitit University Corum Training and Research Hospital were offered to participate in the study between May and July 2014. They were literate and had no severe psychiatric disorders which interfere with filling correctly the scales (psychotic disorders, mental retardation etc.). 49 patients who were not willing to participate were excluded. So 105 participant who filled informed consent form were included in the study. All of the participants were outpatients and there were no other exclusion criteria.

Measures

Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)

BDI is a 21-item self rating scale developed to measure severity of depressive symptoms.²⁸ Participants score the severity of their symptoms that developed during the last 2 weeks on a 4-point Likert scale. Validity and reliability study of the Turkish form of BDI was performed by Hisli.²⁹

State-Trait Anxiety Inventory I-II (STAI-II)

STAI contains two separate scales developed two measure state (STAI-I) and trait (STAI-II) anxiety levels.30 Responses to the questions stating severity of the feelings, thoughts and behaviours associated with state anxiety include 'not at all, somewhat, moderately so, or very much so. Whereas the responses to the items related to trait anxiety include 'almost never, sometimes, often, and almost always'. Validity and reliability study of the Turkish form of the scale was performed by Öner and Le Compte.31

Problem Areas in Diabetes Questionnaire (PAID)

PAID is a 20-item scale developed to investigate diabetes related emotional problems in patients diagnosed with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.³² Questions in the scale are responded as "not a problem=0, minor problem=1, moderate problem=2, somewhat serious problem=3, and serious problem=4." High scores obtained indicate that the patient experiences higher diabetes related emotional stress. Validity and reliability study of the Turkish form was performed.33

Audit of Diabetes-Dependent Quality of Life (ADDQoL)

ADDQoL is designed to evaluate the severity of the effect of treatment on quality of life felt by diabetic patients.³⁴ It is a self-report form consisting of 19 questions with a response of (a) or (b). The (a) responses are scored from -3 to +1 and the (b) responses from 0 to +3. By multiplying the points for each question when calculating the total score, a value of -9 to +3 is obtained. A lower total score indicates a low quality of life. Validity and reliability study of Turkish form of ADDQoL conducted.35

Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire (AADQ)

The AADQ has been developed to measure acceptance of diabetes-related thoughts and feelings and the degree to which they interfere with valued action. The original form is Likert type (from '1-never true' to '7-always true') 11-item scale and higher scores indicate higher level of acceptance.²⁷

Statistical analysis

SPSS AMOS version 23 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used in confirmatory factor analysis in order to test the construct validity of the TAADQ.36 Validity of the models can be assessed through goodness of fit of the data.³⁷ Since chi-square (χ^2) is highly sensitive to the sample size, chi-square fit index is divided by the degree of freedom (χ^2/df), and the obtained relative chi-square is used to make χ^2 less dependent on the sample size.³⁸ The other fit indices used in the study included the comparative fit index (CFI),³⁹ Goodness of Fit Index (GFI), Normed Fit Index (NFI), and The Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA).40 CFI, GFI, NFI>0.900, χ2/df<5 and RMSEA < 0.0854 values can be considered as the acceptable fit criteria.41

SPSS version 20.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) was used for validity and reliability analysis of the other variables in the study. In order to test the reliability of the TAADQ, we used Cronbach alpha coefficient which shows the level of internal consistency, test retest correlation which indicates time invariance, and item-total correlation (ITC). The correlations between the scales were analyzed using the Pearson's correlation method in order to examine convergent and discriminant validity.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

A total of 105 patients participated in the present study, and 59 (56.12%) were female. The patients' mean age was 54 (SD= ± 9.9) years. The mean duration of education was 7.65 years (SD=3.97). The majority (83.3% n=85) had type-2 diabetes. The patients were a representative clinical sample with moderate-standing diabetes (74.8% of patients with diabetes for more than 5 years), insufficient glycemic control (mean±SD= 8.02 ± 1.91).

Construct validity analysis

The confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) conducted for testing the single-factor model according to original scale. According to fit indices 11-item version of TAADQ not indicated good fit. Because of low regression weights (p>0.05) items 1 and 5 removed from the model. According to the fit indices, revised model with 9-item found significantly superior to previous model. Goodness-of-fit indices revealed that there is a correlated measurement error between items 10 and 11. Finally, we selected new model with 9-item (Figure 1) as the best fit for the data with RMSEA=0.084, CFI=0.942, GFI=0.906 and χ^2 /df=1.740 (Table 1). Standardized regression weights (ranged between 0.39 and 0.88, p<0.001) for TAADQ were displayed in Table 2.

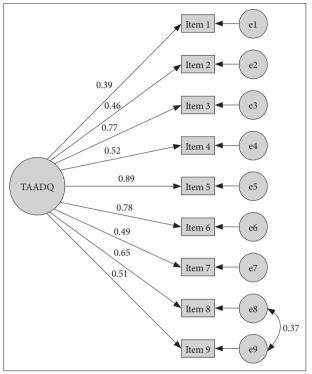


Figure 1. Standardized regression weights in a confirmatory factor analysis model of the Turkish version of the Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire.

Concurrent, convergent and discriminative validity analyses

After CFA analyses of the TAADQ it's necessary to assess concurrent, convergent and discriminant validities of the scale. Concurrent validity analyses was made with the aim of assessing the scale's correlation degrees with expected outcomes. While the TAADQ is specifically focused on psychological flexibility and experiential avoidance levels related with diabetes,²⁷ it can be expected that TAADQ scores should be correlated with higher depressive symptoms, higher emotional stress related to diabetes and lower level quality of life. In correlation analyses we found significant relationships between TAADQ and BDI-II, PAID, and ADDQoL at low and moderate levels (respectively, r=0.405; r=0.0485; r=-0.246) (Table 3).

Concerning convergent validity, it's expected to find significant correlations between TAADQ and similar constructs. In current research, we found statistically significant correlation between TAADQ and STAI-II (r=0.415, p<0.001) and this finding shows that higher levels of trait anxiety (also an indicator of worry³⁰) has relationship with psychological inflexibility and experiential avoidance (Table 3).

Finally, for discriminative validity analyses we conducted a correlation analyses between TAADQ and STAI-I levels and did not find a significant relationship (r=-0.093) (Table 3).

Reliability analyses

In order to determine internal consistency of TAADQ, Cron-

Table 1. Confirmatory factor analysis of Turkish version of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire

Single factor model	RMSA	CFI	GFI	NFI	χ²/df	p
11 item	0.134	0.789	0.819	0.715	2.857	< 0.001
10 item (except 1. item)	0.107	0.879	0.862	0.803	2.199	< 0.001
9 item (except 1. and 5. item)	0.107	0.903	0.877	0.839	2.191	< 0.001
9 item (measurement error revised)	0.084	0.942	0.906	0.877	1.740	<0.011*

^{*}p<0.05. RMSA: Root Mean Square Error of Approximation, CFI: Comparative Fit Index, GFI: Goodness of Fit Index, NFI: Normed Fit Index, χ²/df: Chi Square/Degrees of Free-dom

Table 2. The standard regression weights for Turkish version of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire

Items	Standard regression weights	Square of multiple correlations
1. I have thoughts and feelings about being diabetic that are distressing.	0.391	0.153
2. I do not take care of my diabetes because it reminds me that I have diabetes.	0.461	0.212
3. I eat things I shouldn't eat when the urge to eat them is overwhelming.	0.772	0.596
4. I avoid taking or forget to take my medication because it reminds me that I have diabetes.	0.516	0.266
5. I avoid stress or try to get rid of it by eating what I know I shouldn't eat.	0.886	0.785
6. I often deny to myself what diabetes can do to my body.	0.781	0.611
7. I don't exercise regularly because it reminds me that I have diabetes.	0.492	0.242
8. I avoid thinking about what diabetes can do to me.	0.647	0.418
9. I avoid thinking about diabetes because someone I knew died from diabetes.	0.506	0.256

Table 3. Correlations of scale scores

	HbA1c	ADDQoL	PAID	BDI	STAI-I	STAI-II	TAADQ
HbA1c	1			,	,		
ADDQoL	0.222	1					
PAID	0.032	-0.487**	1				
BDI	-0.154	-0.245*	0.612**	1			
STAI-I	-0.154	-0.318**	0.535**	0.720**	1		
STAI-II	0.258	0.131	-0.044	-0.120	-0.058	1	
TAADQ	0.258	-0.246*	0.485**	0.405**	0.415*	-0.093	1

*p<0.05, **p<0.01. ADDQoL: Audit of Diabetes-Dependent Quality of Life, PAID: Problem Areas in Diabetes Questionnaire, BDI: Beck Depression Inventory, STAI: State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, TAADQ: Turkish version of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire

Table 4. Item-total statistics

Item	Mean (if item deleted)	Variance (if item deleted)	Corrected item total correlations	Cronbach alpha (if item deleted)
1	20.08	108.436	0.407	0.836
2	21.91	110.752	0.375	0.838
3	21.38	100.296	0.675	0.805
4	22.62	112.950	0.455	0.829
5	22.08	101.186	0.754	0.799
6	22.52	106.790	0.682	0.810
7	21.75	107.073	0.462	0.829
8	21.06	95.824	0.668	0.805
9	21.42	99.342	0.541	0.822

bach's alpha correlation analysis method was used. After removing of two items according to CFA, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found 0.836, which indicates a good internal consistency. All items were positively correlated with total score of the scale and Table 4 displays the descriptive statistics for TAADQ items, corrected item-total correlations and the value of Cronbach's alpha if item deleted.

For the purpose of determining the temporal stability of TAADQ, the scale was applied to 19 patients with two weeks intervals by using the test-retest method. When the test-retest correlations were investigated for each item of TAADQ, all of the items were found to have a value between 0.47 and 0.86 (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

AADQ which is a scale enabling evaluation of psychological flexibility levels of diabetic patients, allows assessment of the attitudes of diabetics toward the disease and associated problems both in clinical practice and studies. In this study, we investigated whether the Turkish form of scale is a valid and reliable assessment tool in Turkish population.

When calculating sample size for the analysis of construct validity of the scale, it is generally recommended that the number of persons should be higher than the number of variables,

Table 5. Test-retest correlations

TAADQ items (N=19)	r	p
1	0.508	0.026*
2	0.582	0.009*
3	0.683	0.001*
4	0.867	0.000*
5	0.695	0.001*
6	0.564	0.012*
7	0.638	0.003*
8	0.471	0.042*
9	0.657	0.002*

*p<0.05. TAADQ: Turkish version of Acceptance and Action Diabetes Questionnaire, r: correlation coefficient

and should be at least 5 to 10 for each variable. 42 For this reason, at the beginning of the study we targeted to include 110 persons based on the 11-item AADQ, ultimately reached to 105 persons, thought that the above mentioned condition was met. In the confirmatory factor analysis carried out in order to test TAADQ has not a single-factor construct as its original version; it was found that model fit values of the 11-item version were not at an acceptable level, following respective removal of the 1st and 5th items from the scale, 9-item 3rd method obtained was found to have acceptable values.

CFA was then applied to test whether AADQ has a single-

factor construct. CFA also allows to detect measurement errors. Errors showing high correlations may include methodological reasons, use of similar words, overlapping of the contents, and difficulty in understanding, etc.³⁷ In our study, according to the results of CFA, TAADQ was found to have a single-factor construct like its original version. A high correlation was found between the 8th and 9th items in terms of the measurement errors. The use of similar words such as "I avoid thinking of..." and emphasis on avoidance attitude in both items may explain the high correlation level determined and effect of the method.

Reliability of a scale can be tested through test retest analysis, internal consistency coefficient, and item total score correlation analysis. 43 Analyses (test retest correlation, item-total correlation with 2-week interval, cronbach alpha coefficient, and item-total scale point analyses) were performed on 9-item version. Looking test retest correlations of AADQ, correlation coefficients of each item were found to be between 0.47 and 0.86, which indicated that the scale items did not show significant change over time. Cronbach alpha coefficient, and itemtotal scale point analyses were used to assess the internal consistency.⁴² In our study, alpha coefficient of the AADQ was found as 0.83, and Schmitt et al.17 who studied the original scale's reliability and validity found similarly alpha value as 0.82. Accordingly, it can be said that the internal consistency is high both in original and Turkish forms of the scale. In item-total scale point analysis which is performed to test reliability of AADQ, it is reported that the coefficients should be higher than 0.30, and the items that do not comply with this rule may be removed from the scale.⁴⁴ Looking to our results; the coefficients of item-total scale point analysis varied between 0.27 and 0.75, and we found unnecessary to remove any item.

Concurrent validity is used to evaluate whether the measurement tool measure the expected results. In the present study, significant correlations between severity of depressive symptoms, quality of life levels, and diabetes related emotional stress and AADQ, support concurrent validity of the scale. Because there are studies reporting that avoidance from negative inner life events causes more stress,45 and is associated with higher depression levels and lower quality of life. 46,47 In order to test convergent validity of the scale; correlation between AADQ and STAI-II scale which was developed to measure the levels of trait anxiety and worry was analyzed, and a significant correlation was observed. The correlation between these two scales may not expected to be much strong because ACT's psychological inflexibility model²³ included other psychopathological processes (eg. experiential avoidance, cognitive fusion, poor self-perception, decreased contact with the values etc.) in addition to anxiety. This findings of our study may be considered as a result which could be an evidence for convergent validity of AADQ.

For divergent validity of AADQ; its correlation with STAI-I scale, developed to assess state anxiety, was assessed. Because AADQ was designed to measure avoidance attitudes rather than situtational signs, it is not expected to be affected by crosssectional symptoms. As an evidence for the Divergent validity of AADQ, we did not find a significant correlation between the two scales.

Our study has some limitations. Relatively small sample size may have an impact on the study results. Also we had no sufficient rates of the patients with type-1 and type-2 diabetes for creating two separate groups, and we can not assess possible differences in psychological flexibility between two diabetes types. The complications of diabetes may lead to more severe depressive symptoms and anxiety and less psychological flexibility but in this study the patients with diabetes were not classified according to complications of diabetes; this can be another limitation. Further comprehensive studies with a larger sample size or two type-1 and type-2 diabetes group or classified according to complications of diabetes should be conducted for this purpose.

In conclusion; our study demonstrates that the TAADQ has sufficient psychometric properties. Measurement of diabetes related psychological flexibility/inflexibility may be useful in development and implementation of interventions for increasing quality of life in diabetic persons in Turkey. So TAADQ will be a powerfull tool in assessing psychological flexibility in diabetes patients.

Supplementary Materials _

The online-only Data Supplement is available with this article at https://doi.org/10.30773/pi.2019.02.26.2.

Conflicts of Interest_

The authors have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

Author Contributions _

Karadere and Yavuz conceived of the presented idea, developed the theory, determined the methodology and analyzed the data. Karadere, Asafov and Küçükler contributed to finding cases, collection and entry of data. All authors discussed the results and contributed to the final manuscript.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

DİYABETLİLER/ŞEKER HASTALARI İÇİN KABUL VE EYLEM FORMU

Aşağıda bir dizi ifade bulunmaktadır. Her bir ifadenin sizin için ne kadar doğru olduğunu yanında yazan rakamı yuvarlak içine alarak belirtiniz. Seçiminizi yapmak için aşağıdaki cetveli kullanınız.

1	2 3 4 5			6			7							
Hiçbir z doğru d		Çok nadiren doğru						Neredeyse her zaman doğru			Daima doğru			
1. \$	Şeker h	astası olma ile i	lişkili sıkıntı ver	en duygu ve düş	üncelere sahibin	n. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	Şeker h natırlatı	_	at etmiyorum çü	nkü bana şeker h	ıastası olduğumu	¹ 1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	Yeme a yiyorun		ulmaz olduğunda	a yememem gere	eken şeyleri	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
			ınıyorum ya da lığım olduğunu		um çünkü bu	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		nem gerektiğini l urtulmaya çalışı	oildiğim şeyleri yorum.	yiyerek gerginlil	kten kaçınıyorun	¹ 1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	Şeker h eddede		duma yapabileco	eklerini sık sık iı	nkar ederim	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		i olarak egzersiz nu hatırlatıyor.	zyapmıyorum çü	inkü bana şeker	hastalığım	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8. 5	Şeker h	astalığının bana	neler yapabilece	eğini düşünmekt	en kaçınıyorum.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
ŀ	nastalığ	ından öldü.	nmekten kaçınıy	·	dığım biri şeker	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

^{*(1.} madde hariç tüm maddeler ters puanlıdır)