Portuguese Version of the Alcohol Craving Questionnaire Short-Form - Revised: Validation and Reliability Assessment

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Scientific Background

Alcohol craving is defined as a strong subjective desire for alcohol intake (Tiffany & Conklin, 2000). With the growth of investigation on the subject, alcohol craving has been considered a multifaceted phenomenon, which tends to be situational specific and often associated with psychological cues (Heinz, Beck, Grüsser, Grace, & Wrase, 2009).

As a relevant target in the treatment of alcohol use disorder, this urge for alcohol consumption has often been depict as one of the main causes for acquisition and maintenance of drug dependence, representing a detrimental factor for relapse, occurring in approximately 70% of recovering patients (Myrick et al, 2004; Franken, 2002).

As a western country, Portugal presents a disquieting picture concerning alcohol consumption with 49% of the population aged between 15 and 74 having consumed alcohol in the last 30 days.

To our knowledge, PACS is the only measurement of alcohol craving that has been validated to a Portuguese sample. Bearing in mind the complexity and changeability of the construct, the validation of a multifactorial scale that assesses acute levels of craving seemed meaningful. For this reason, given the characteristics of the existing scales and questionnaires of alcohol craving measurement, ACQ-SF-R was selected with the intent of overcoming these limitations.

Aims

Validate a multifactorial scale that assesses acute levels for the Portuguese population, through the translation and validation of ACQ-SF-R. Furthermore, we aimed to assess which model better fits the aimed population; testing the original 4 factor model as well as to conduct an exploratory factor analysis to understand how the scale behaves in the adapted version.

Participants

AGE

18 – 30 years
(M = 20.37; SD = 1.84)

n = 591
University Students

n = 398 (67,3%)
Age (M = 20.23; SD = 1.64)

n = 193 (32.7%)
Age (M = 20.65; SD = 2.16)

Method

1st Step — Translation

- Translation
- Back-translation

2nd Step — Sample Collection

- Classroom → University Students

- AQC-SF-R
- PACS
- Demographics

3rd Step — Statistical Analysis

- Exploratory Factor Analysis
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis
- Reliability
- Factorial Variance - Gender

Statistics
AMOS

Results

Factor Analysis

- Expectancy/Emotionality
- Predisposition/Opportunity
- Compulsivity

F1 • Q6, Q7, Q9, Q10, Q12 - α = 0,82 • Explained Variance = 38,58%
F2 • Q3, Q8, Q11 - α = 0,66 • Explained Variance = 12,03%
F3 • Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5 - α = 0,68 • Explained Variance = 10,03%

Internal Consistency

Cronbach α = 0,836
VS
Spanish Version α = 0,82
Original Version α = 0,77 – 0,86

Total Explained Variance from a Factor Analysis

Factor	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loading			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	Variance %	Cumulative %	Total	Variance %	Cumulative %	Total	Variance %	Cumulative %
1	4.628	38.567	38.567	4.628	38.567	38.567	3.037	25.312	25.312
2	1.453	12.107	50.674	1.453	12.107	50.674	2.381	19.842	45.153
3	1.201	10.011	60.685	1.201	10.011	60.685	1.864	15.532	60.685
4	.762	6.350	67.035						
5	.710	5.913	72.948						
6	.624	5.198	78.146						
7	.585	4.879	83.025						
8	.538	4.487	87.512						
9	.456	3.803	91.315						
10	.413	3.444	94.759						
11	.360	3.001	97.760						
12	.269	2.240	100.000						