Danish University Colleges

MR-CRAS The "Mechanical Restraint - Confounders, Risk, Alliance Score"

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The “Mechanical Restraint - Confounders, Risk, Alliance Score”

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INTRODUCTION

A new short-term risk assessment instrument, the MR-CRAS checklist, including three subscales with altogether 18 items has been developed in close collaboration with forensic psychiatric clinicians, e.g., psychiatrists and nurses.

The purpose of the MR-CRAS checklist is to support the decision on releasing the patient with the aim of reducing the duration of mechanical restraint as much as safely possible.

Clinical validation and pilot testing show that the MR-CRAS checklist is understandable, relevant, comprehensive and easy to use, that it forms a quick overview of essential observations and creates a common basis for continuous assessment of the patient’s readiness to be released from mechanical restraint.

AIM

The aim of this study was to investigate whether the subscales: confounders, risk and parameters of alliance, constituted separate subscales and to further evaluate the use of MR-CRAS and determine the need for revisions of the checklist and its user manual.

METHOD

Construct validity of MR-CRAS was tested through a field-study among nurses, nurse assistants and social and healthcare assistants in 13 Danish closed forensic psychiatric inpatient units.

MR-CRAS data were analysed by a Mokken analysis of scalability and a Spearman correlation analysis, and content analysis were performed on feedback data from clinicians.

MR-CRAS

During a mechanical restraint episode, each subscale item is observed, assessed and scored every hour, by the clinician who had observed the patient during that hour. (see also handouts!)

Confounders

(From mark with an ‘x’ if present)

Compliance problems

The patient wants to remain restrained

Delusions

Conceptual disorganization

Hallucinations

Risks

(From mark with an ‘x’ if present)

Belligerent

Threats of self-harm

Verbal threats

Attacking objects

Physical threats

Violence against clinicians

Parameters of alliance

(score: 0, 1, or 2)

Is there cooperation with the patient?

Can the patient’s behaviour be corrected?

Does the patient have insight into his/her own situation?

RESULTS

MR - CRAS was completed by clinicians in 143 episodes of mechanical restraint, representing 88 patients, with a mean duration of 63.25 hours. Most patients were younger men, diagnosed within the schizophrenia spectrum.

The content analysis shows that the checklist was experienced as:

- Usable for continuous and final assessment of the patient’s readiness to be released from mechanical restraint.
- More manageable than other instruments
- Strengthening clinicians’ documentation

In particular, the parameters of alliance were highlighted as central for conversations with the patient around discontinuation of mechanical restraint.

The psychometric analyses confirmed the unidimensionality of the three subscales and that the subscales were not overlapping each other in terms of content.

Thus, no revision to the MR – CRAS checklist was performed and the final version of the three subscales is displayed in the figure.

CONCLUSION

The study shows evidence of the construct validity of MR – CRAS among clinicians at closed forensic mental health inpatient units.

MR-CRAS contributes with:

- A common language
- Structured, systematic, and transparent observations and assessments on an hour by hour basis during mechanical restraint

MR-CRAS is being combined with targeted risk management interventions through two future projects focusing on:

- The development and testing of the intervention “Guided Clinical Decision-making for Mechanical Restraints Use” (GCDMR ) (see poster)
- The “Developing targeted MR-CRAS interventions to reduce the duration of mechanical restraint among forensic psychiatric inpatients”