



Convergent validity of the Comprehensive assessment Psychopathy Personality-Institutional Rating Scale, Interpersonal Measure Psychopathy and Psychopathy Checklist-Revised among Belgian forensic inpatients

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Introduction

- ✓ The Psychopathy-Checklist-Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 2003) is widely used in forensic clinical practice in Belgium. This PCL-R is debated, and presents the limitation of being a static measure and not sensitive to change.
- ✓ However no other measurement of psychopathy was hitherto implemented. The Comprehensive Assessment of Psychopathic Personality-institutional Rating Scale (CAPP-IRS; Cooke, Hart, & Logan, 2004) is a new personality based model and clinical assessment of psychopathy. The CAPP model aims at encompassing the full domain of the psychopathic symptomatology as well as providing a measure that is sensitive towards capturing change in personality traits. Validation of the CAPP-IRS is underway in many countries (Hoff, Rypdal, Mykletun, & Cooke, 2012; Kreis & Cooke, 2012; Pedersen, Kunz, Rasmussen, & Elsass, 2010; Stoll, Heinzen, Köler, & Huchzermeier, 2011; Sandvik, Hansen, Kristensen, Johnsen, Logal, & Thornton, 2012).

Objectives

- ✓ To implement CAPP-IRS and Interpersonal Measure of Psychopathy (IM-P; Kosson, Steuerwald, Forth, & Kirkhart, 1997) among male adult offenders confined in Belgian forensic hospital (N=19).
- ✓ To examine the convergent validity of the French language CAPP-IRS, the IM-P and PCL-R.

Method

Comprehensive Assessment of Psychopathic Personality

- ✓ The CAPP model includes six domains (i.e., *Attachment, Behavioral, Cognitive, Dominance, Emotional, and Self*) and 33 symptoms, each symptom defined by a number of trait descriptive adjectives. Each Symptom is scored on a 7-point scale (0-6).

Interpersonnal Measure of Psychopathy

- ✓ IM-P is a 21-items observational measure designed to quantify interpersonal interactions occurring during traditional PCL-R interviews. It comprises 3-factors: *Dominance, Grandiosity, and Boundary Violations*. The interpersonal traits have been central in differentiating primary from secondary variants of psychopathy. Raters were asked to decide whether the trait or interpersonal dynamic described the individual or interaction not at all (1), somewhat (2), very well (3), or perfectly (4).

Data analysis

- ✓ Descriptive analysis was performed according to the IQ, age, length of stay, mental disorders (DSM-IV, APA, 1994), type of offences variables and psychopath groups (“High Psychopath”: PCL-R total scores >25; “Medium Psychopath” (PCL-R total scores ranging between 15 and 24.9; “Low Psychopath” (PCL-R total scores <15). The group comparisons were calculated with X² and Kruskal-Wallis Tests.
- ✓ Convergent validity between PCL-R, CAPP-IRS and IM-P scores were calculated with Spearman’s Correlations.
- ✓ Comparison between groups (Low/High total PCL-R) on the CAPP-IRS domains scores (Mann-Whitney U).

Spearman’s Correlations between PCL-R, CAPP-IRS and IM-P scores

PCL-R (N=19)	IM-P						
	Total Score	Interpersonal factor	Antisocial factor	Interpersonal facet	Affective facet	Impulsive facet	Antisocial facet
CAPP-IRS							
Total Score IM-P	.44	.48*	.43	.66*	.02	.34	.47
Self Domain	.22	.47*	.13	.50*	.31	.19	-.02
Emotional Domain	.41	.51*	.22	.44	.36	.42	.17
Dominance Domain	.30	.45	.36	.28	.39	.32	.15
Attachment Domain	.48*	.56*	.44	.53*	.29	.59*	.39
Behavioral Domain	.47*	.39	.44	.40	.45	.41	.37
Cognitive Domain	.33	.40	.21	.10	.73**	.07	.05
Total Score CAPP	.44	.55*	.42	.46	.45	.45	.23

*p<.05; **p<.01

Descriptive statistics of CAPP-IRS scores by level of psychopathy

PCL-R (N=19)	Low Psychopath (N=7)		High Psychopath (N=8)		U	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
CAPP-IRS						
Self Domain	13,86	7,29	19,75	7,81	16,50	.19
Emotional Domain	12,57	4,08	17,38	2,88	9,00	.03
Dominance Domain	12,29	7,74	19,00	6,28	14,00	.12
Attachment Domain	8,57	5,35	15,13	4,52	8,50	.02
Behavioral Domain	9,00	3,16	16,25	6,41	9,50	.03
Cognitive Domain	9,00	3,46	13,50	5,66	13,50	.09
Total Score CAPP	65,29	23,39	101,00	25,29	9,00	.03

Discussion

➤ Descriptive analysis of IQ, age, length of stay, mental disorders and type of offences.

- ✓ There were no difference between psychopath groups at the IQ, age, length of stay, major mental disorders and type of offences. Concerning personality disorders, “Medium Psychopath” group presented significantly more cluster A diagnoses than the “Low” and “High Psychopath” groups (X²=7,76; p=.021). Diagnostic comorbidity was important in the entire sample. Indeed, participants presented 44% comorbidity on the Axis-II disorders, 42% presented comorbidity on the Axis-I disorders and 67% presented comorbidity on both Axis-I and II disorders. However, no difference in term of comorbidity was found between levels of psychopathy groups.

➤ Convergent validity between PCL-R, CAPP-IRS and IM-P

- ✓ We observed a positive correlation, with a medium effect size (Cohen, 1992), between PCL-R total score, the attachment and behavioral domains of the CAPP-IRS. There was a large effect size between the CAPP-IRS total score, the emotional domain, the self domain and the PCL-R interpersonal factor. The results confirm the data found by Sandvik et al. (2012).
- ✓ Large effect sizes were observed between: (a) the PCL-R affective facet and the cognitive domain; (b) the PCL-R interpersonal facet, the attachment and self domains. Unlike the study Sandvik et al. (2012), these domains are clearly related to a specific facet. Furthermore, these data do not necessarily point high affective focus in the CAPP-model. There was no relation between the CAPP-IRS domains and the antisocial facet. This result is congruent with the aim of the CAPP developers to conceptualize a measure of psychopathic personality that mainly focuses on personality traits (Cooke et al., 2004).
- ✓ In a general, we observed a lower magnitude of the correlations between CAPP-IRS and PCL-R than the Sandvik et al. (2012) study, which focused on inmates. Several explanations can be suggested: 1) our forensic sample presented a strong prevalence and comorbidity of mental disorders; 2) Our evaluations were made at different times and by different evaluators.
- ✓ The strongest relations were found between IM-P total score and PCL-R interpersonal factor and facet. The results are congruent with the IM-P literature (Kosson et al., 1997).

➤ Descriptive analysis of CAPP-IRS scores by level of psychopathy

- ✓ In general, “High Psychopath” group presented higher CAPP-IRS scores than “Low Psychopath” group. “High Psychopath” group presented a significantly higher CAPP-IRS total score than the “Low Psychopath” group. The differences were significant for the emotional, attachment, behavioral domains. Cognitive, self and dominance domains seemed less prototypical in our forensic sample. The study of Hoff et al. (2012) also reported the cognitive domain as being the less prototypical.