DUTCH VALIDATION OF THE SELF-EVALUATION OF NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

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BACKGROUND

Negative symptoms are common in severe mental illness (SMI) and contribute to **impaired social functioning** and **a lower quality of life**.

Assessments are observer based and lack content validity. **Self-rating scales** could complement current assessment tools.

The **Self-Evaluation of Negative Symptoms** (SNS) is a 20-item questionnaire addressing 5 domains of negative symptoms and demonstrated adequate psychometric properties.

STUDY AIM

To evaluate the **psychometric properties** of the Dutch translation of the SNS in people with **SMI**.

METHODS

Participants: 340 service users with 1) a psychotic disorder and 2) 18 years or older.

Internal consistency assessed by *Cronbach's Alpha*

Construct validity *assessed by Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)* which measures the *Comparative Fit Index, Tucker-Lewis Index* and the *Root mean square error of approximation*

Convergent & discriminant validity assessed by *Correlational analyses* of SNS with *PANSS, GAF, HoNOS, MANSA & Functional remission*

RESULTS

Construct validity	
Comparative Fit Index	0.987
Tucker-Lewis Index	0.984
Root mean square error of approximation	0.035

Internal consistency	**Cronbachs alpha**
SNS total	0.88
Social withdrawal	0.74
Reduced emotional range	0.64
Alogia	0.74
Avolition	0.81
Anhedonia	0.73

Correlational analyses	**PANSS total**	**PANSS positive**	**PANSS negative**	**PANSS general**	**HoNOS**	**GAF**	**FR**	**MANSA**
SNS total	0.44***	0.38***	0.39***	0.41***	0.32***	-0.18	0.28***	-0.43***
Social withdrawal	0.40***	0.39***	0.37***	0.34***	0.30***	-0.23*	0.27***	-0.29***
Blunted affect	0.28***	0.26***	0.27***	0.24**	0.18*	-0.074	0.16	-0.11
Alogia	0.31***	0.22**	0.29***	0.31***	0.20*	-0.09	0.12	-0.32***
Avolition	0.35***	0.30***	0.29***	0.33***	0.29***	-0.11	0.27***	-0.44***
Anhedonia	0.33***	0.28***	0.29***	0.32***	0.22*	-0.19	0.20*	-0.40***

*p<0.01; **p<0.001; ***p<0.0001

CONCLUSIONS

The Dutch version of the SNS shows **good internal consistency** & is comparable to previous translations. **Confirmatory factor analysis** confirms that the model has a **good fit**.

Correlational analyses demonstrate good convergent validity, but fail to show discriminant validity.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

The Dutch SNS shows good psychometric properties and can be used to self-assess negative symptoms.