

Abstract

Introduction: Functional testing which is used in rehabilitation is mainly based on aspection and palpation. It is a subjective examination of a patient and you cannot find out specific physical quantities with this method. If you want to use functional tests in clinical practise it is necessary to determine the reliability of the tests.

Aim: To determine the inter-rater reliability for the DNS tests and to create a detailed descriptive statistics and a new evaluation sheet.

Materials and methods: There were six experienced evaluators who are trained for the DNS method. We have worked with a mixed group of patients. There were patients with health problems as well as patients without any difficulties (n = 10 women, average age – 34, 5, n = 4 men, average age - 35, 2). We used percentage agreement, Fleiss's kappa coefficients (κ) and P-value.

Results:

The research of DNS tests reliability is innovative. Evaluators of DNS tests usually agree with each other. In some cases there is a problem with using Fleiss's kappa coefficients (κ) because of the position of relative frequencies. In most tests we found out that the inter-rater reliability is good ($\kappa \geq 0.80$), substantial ($0.60 \leq \kappa < 0.80$) and moderate ($0.40 \leq \kappa < 0.60$).

Conclusion: The evaluation of one character in a case of one patient by three trials and experienced evaluators is the right way. Some characters are statistically insignificant because of the disputed assessment of the character. It is mostly about whether the discrepancy is a physiological phenomenon or whether there are signs of pathology.

Keywords: reliability, Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization, functional tests