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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section B

Instrument Validation

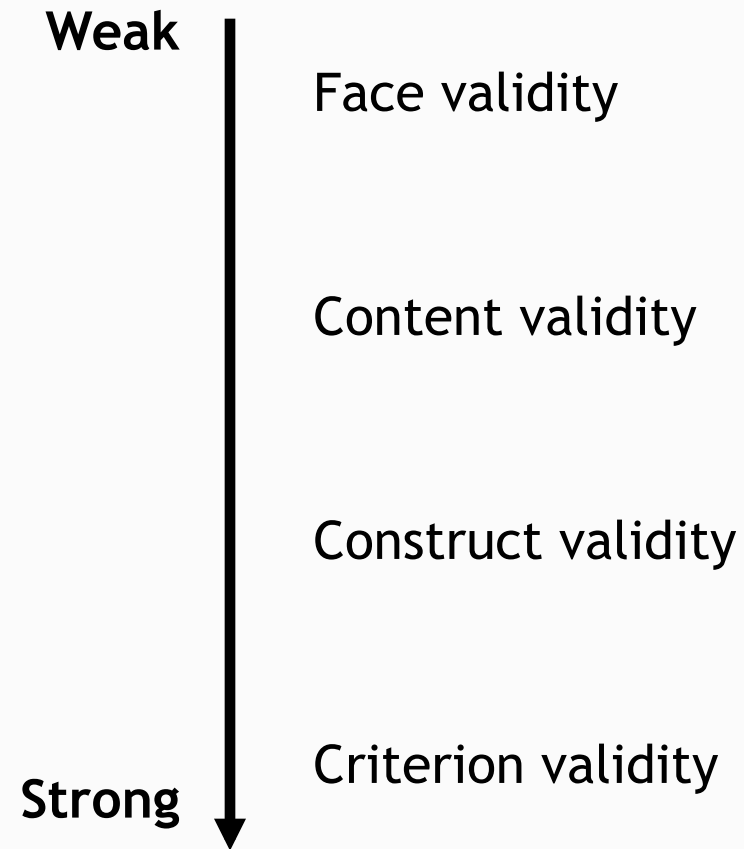
Measurement Validity

- Definition
 - The extent to which a test measures what it purports to measure
- Goal
 - Diagnostic systems that accurately summarize signs and symptoms to indicate etiology and suggest prevention, prognosis, and treatment

Problems with Relying on Standard (Western) Measures

- Cultural validity
 - How closely concepts in a questionnaire match local concepts; Western/outside concepts may not apply locally
- Unknown local concepts
 - Are there important local issues/concepts unknown to us? How to include questions we don't know we should be asking?
- Translation problems
 - Who translates? Translation/back-translation methods inadequate, can result in semantic equivalence but real-world insignificance (e.g., “lighting fires”)
- RISK: Evaluations don't accurately measure impact

Types of Validity



Validity

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 - It appears as expected
- Content validity
 - Covers range of signs and symptoms relevant to syndrome

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- Criterion validity
 - Strength of comparison with external standard
 - Concurrent/discriminant and predictive

Reliability

- Consistency between measures of the same thing—a direct function of the amount of measurement error in a variable
 - Consistency across time (test-retest)
 - Consistency across assessors (inter-rater)
 - Internal consistency of instrument (alpha)

Reliability vs. Validity

- Consistent measurement vs. information about etiology and underlying disorder
- DSM and ICD: Operational definitions based on consensus and experience; reliable

Utility

- Defined by purpose of assessment
 - Etiologic research
 - Triage

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 - Etiologic research
 - Triage
- Categorical vs. dimensional perspectives

Validity Challenges

- Gold standard diagnostic techniques rare
 - Disease process can be well understood, but measurement is inaccurate
 - Disease process can be imperfectly understood, with controversy as to which signs and symptoms to use even if they can be measured accurately

Cross-Cultural Issues

- No gold standard
- Can be difficult to define mental illness
- Lack of cross-cultural research on consistency in disorder expression