



Assessment instruments of functioning in Brazilian elderly and the ICF: a systematic review

Instrumentos de avaliação da funcionalidade em idosos brasileiros e a CIF: uma revisão sistemática da literatura

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Abstract

Introduction: Under the new conceptual model described by the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF) for a biopsychosocial health analysis, it is necessary to consider that it is not arising only from biological conditions, but also environmental, social, cultural and politics involved in this process. **Objective:** To review the publications that had the Brazilians elderly functioning as outcome by analyzing the instruments used and to verify its consistency with the ICF model. **Methods:** A systematic review of the Brazilian literature on elderly was performed in SciELO, PubMed, Scopus, and Lilacs databases. Publications starting in 2001, in English, Portuguese or Spanish, studies with experimental design or intervention, having the Brazilian elderly as the only subject. For evaluating the quality of the papers, the Downs and Black checklist were used. **Results:** From 3070 items first found in the research, 29 articles remained for this study. Of these, 25 instruments were used to measure the elderly functioning. The frequency of the ICF domains were: health condition (0.28%), body structure and function (1.71%), activity (82.34%), participation (3.42%), environmental factors (12.25%) and personal factors (0%). **Conclusion:** Despite the ICF be much discussed today, it was possible to detect remaining gaps in the studies about the subject. The

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results of this study indicate that the conceptual model has not being fully and equitably used when it comes to the elderly functioning.

Keywords: Aged. International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Review.

Resumo

Introdução: Sob o novo modelo conceitual descrito pela Classificação Internacional de Funcionalidade, Incapacidade e Saúde (CIF), para uma análise biopsicossocial da saúde, torna-se necessário considerar que ela não é advinda apenas das condições biológicas, mas também de fatores ambientais, sociais, culturais e políticos envolvidos neste processo. **Objetivo:** Revisar as publicações que possuem como desfecho a funcionalidade de idosos brasileiros analisando os instrumentos utilizados para sua avaliação e verificar sua coerência com o modelo da CIF. **Métodos:** Foi realizada uma pesquisa de revisão sistemática da literatura, nas bases de dados SciELO, PubMed, Scopus e Lilacs. Foram incluídas publicações a partir de 2001, nos idiomas inglês, português ou espanhol, estudos com desenho experimental ou de intervenção, tendo como sujeitos de estudo apenas idosos brasileiros. Para a avaliação da qualidade dos artigos incluídos, foi utilizado o Checklist de Downs e Black. **Resultados:** Dos 3070 artigos encontrados, após leitura minuciosa, restaram 29. Destes, foram selecionados 25 instrumentos que foram utilizados para medir a funcionalidade do idoso, onde a frequência dos domínios da CIF foi: condição de saúde (0,28%), função e estrutura do corpo (1,71%), atividade (82,34%), participação (3,42%), fatores ambientais (12,25%) e fatores pessoais (0%). **Conclusão:** Apesar da CIF ser muito discutida na atualidade, foi possível detectar lacunas ainda existentes nos estudos acerca do tema. Os resultados da presente pesquisa apontam que o modelo conceitual não está sendo utilizado em sua totalidade e de forma equânime quando se trata de funcionalidade em idosos.

Palavras-chave: Idoso. Classificação Internacional de Funcionalidade, Incapacidade e Saúde. Revisão.

Introduction

From the 70s, the demographic transition in Brazil marks an accelerated process of population aging, arising from advances and discoveries in health care, and better living conditions of the population that has the effect of a change in morbidity and mortality patterns. The prevalence of diseases that were transmittable (infectious) changes to the prevalence of chronic degenerative diseases and external causes (1).

The reflection of this growth in the number of elderly in Brazil is increasingly significant over the years. Added to the fact that with advancing age occur morphological, functional and biochemical changes that cover the entire body and determine the progressive loss of the individual's ability to adapt to the environment, causing greater vulnerability (2). The aging produces a reduced functional capacity of the person, making this person dependent on some activities performed on a day-to-day, requiring a

correct evaluation of its functioning to identify the main deficiencies and difficulties (3).

In this context, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO), addresses the functioning and disability with a biopsychosocial context, analyzing the interaction of the various factors involved in health, be them biological, social or personal, considering the environmental and individual conditions in this interaction (4).

This way, ICF brings a new challenge to the concept and analysis of health, focused on incapacity and disability, as it believes that they are not only from the biological conditions of the disease, but also from the environmental, social, cultural and political facts involved in this case (5).

According to the WHO (4), you can see on the IFC a conceptual diagram, where there are six areas that allow a multidimensional relationship of the functioning to be made. The domains of the ICF are the functions and body structures, activity, participation

and environmental factors. The relationship between the components of the IFC is dynamic; in other words, the functioning of an individual is the result of an interaction or complex relationship between these elements, the body functions and body structures, activities, participation and contextual factors (environmental and personal factor). The ICF allows to describe the functioning of the human being and serves as a standard language, allowing the standardized sharing of such information to various places and people (4).

This systematic literature review aims to collect and study instruments used for measuring the elderly functioning as an endpoint in Brazilian scientific articles and verify its consistency with the IFC model. The aim is to thus detect whether the design of the elderly functioning in Brazilian research reveals some relationship with the IFC. Also, this review will guide the choice of instruments for use in measuring the functioning in the clinical and research environment.

Methods

This study is a systematic review of the literature searched between September 2015 and February 2016, using the bases Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), PubMed, Scopus, and Lilacs in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

For bibliographic search descriptors were established: Elderly; Very old; Evaluation; Frail elderly and their counterparts in English and Spanish. And the key words: Disability; Functional performance; Functioning; Functional capacity; Disabilities and their counterparts in English and Spanish. The combination of descriptors were: [(“Inability” OR “Functional Performance” OR “Functioning” OR “Functional Capacity” OR “Deficiency”) AND (“Senior” OR “Very Elderly” OR “Frail Elderly”)].

The selection of articles followed the following inclusion criteria: articles written from 2001 (ICF publication date), studies with experimental design or only Brazilian elderly population in the study and intervention. And the exclusion criteria were: review articles, observational studies, cross-sectional studies and those that did not address the functioning as the outcome variable or study.

Initially, research and inclusion of articles was carried out by two researchers independently. In a second moment the results were compared and in case

of divergences between any articles, with the support of a third experienced researcher in the subject, was decided on the inclusion of the article.

The articles were evaluated by the title and the summary as to its eligibility according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. After this step, the articles were read in full and could still be excluded if they do not fulfill the eligibility criteria. The following data were extracted from studies found: author/year of publication; composition of the sample; scale assessment of functioning; outcome studied.

The studies that met the inclusion criteria were evaluated according to the methodological quality checklist described by DOWNS and BLACK (6), composed of 27 questions divided into five sections: Study Quality (10 items), general quality of the study; External validity (3 items), ability to generalize findings of the study; Internal validity (7 items), evaluate the bias in the intervention and outcome; Confounding bias and selection (6 items), determine the bias from the sampling or group work; Study power. In this review an adaptation was performed where only 26 items were used to evaluate the methodological quality of the article and have not used any cut-off point for selection. As already done by other authors, item 27 of the questionnaire corresponding to “power” session was not used (7, 8).

The second stage of the research consisted of the codification of the instruments used in research in the evaluation process of the elderly functioning for ICF domains. The encoding process consists of the extraction of significant concepts of the outcomes of the articles. These outcomes could be scales, questionnaires, questions or any other strategy used in the articles to assess functioning. Once extracted, these concepts were codified for the domains of ICF by two independent coders in accordance with established and published rules (9). Finally, the products of the two codings were compared and discrepancies resolved with the supervision of a third investigator encoder.

For the database storage, reading and selection of articles, was used StArt 2.3.4.2 program (State of the Art through Systematic Review), developed by the Research in Software Laboratory of the Federal University of São Carlos (LaPES - Ufscar). This tool is used to look for evidence in the scientific literature, conducted in a formal manner, using well-defined stages, according to a well-designed protocol (10). In the second stage of the Project, for processing, data analysis and creating charts, Excel® 2011 program was used.

Results

Initially, the first search resulted in 3070 articles. After the accomplishment of all steps of inclusion and

exclusion of articles, were considered for review 29 publications. Figure 1 demonstrates a flow chart with the selection process of items.

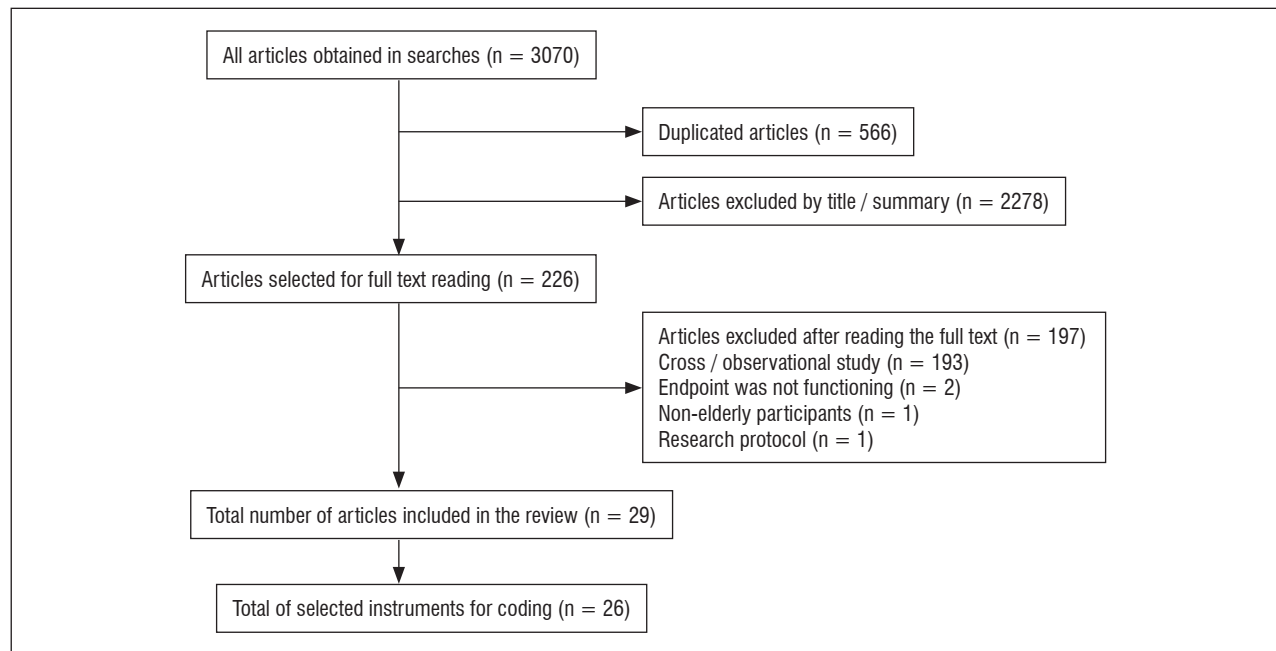


Figure 1 - Selection flowchart of review articles.

Regarding the articles included in the review, according to Downs and Black Checklist, which evaluated the methodological quality of these, the minimum

obtained score was 10 and the maximum 22, with an average of 16.9 for 27 questions. In Table 1 we have the overview of the articles included in the review.

Table 1 - General distribution of the studied articles according to the sample characteristics, aims, functional measurement instrument used and quality score

Author / Year	Total sample number *	Aim	Instrument Functioning	Quality Score **
Bastone e Jacob 2004 (11)	37	To determine the effectiveness of a 6 months exercise program for functional performance of institutionalized elderly.	Obstacle course test (OCQTS e OCQLS); Lower-limb function test; 6 min. walking test.	20
Montenegro e Silva 2007 (12)	42	To analyze the effects of a health promoter program on functional capacity and their sociodemographic and clinical variables in institutionalized elderly.	HAQ (Health Assessment Questionnaire).	13
Bottaro, Machado, Nogueir, Scales, Veloso. 2007 (13)	24	To investigate the 10 weeks effect of intense verses traditional training program.	<i>Arm Curl Test</i> ; sitting down and standing up from the chair test. (30 sec); 8 Foot Up And Go.	16
Barbosa, Prates, Gonçalves, Aquino, Parentoni. 2008 (14)	35	To evaluate the effect of 6 different dual tasks in the community elderly functional performance.	Timed up and go test. (TUG).	19
Geraldes, Carvalho, Junior, Farinatti, Albuquerque 2007 (15)	24	To observe the effects of 12 weeks of resistance training, on muscle and power strenght and functional performance.	10 m walking test; up from the kneeling position (UKP); Sit down and stand up form the chair 5 times.	19

Author / Year	Total sample number *	Aim	Instrument Functioning	Quality Score **
Carvalho e Assini 2008 (16)	39	To check the improvement of functional capacity among elderly people undergoing an intervention by isostretching.	6 min walking test (6WT).	15
Perez, Zimperer, Silva. 2009 (17)	29	To evaluate the effects of a program of aquatic exercise in ADL of elderly patients with motor disorders.	Getting up from the ground; sit down and get up from the chair and move around the house (SGCT); 800 m walk / run.	10
Batista, Vilar, Ferreira, Rebelatto. 2009 (18)	12	To evaluate the active stretching program on the knee flexors in relation to flexibility, torque, and functional mobility of elderly.	TUG	16
Cipriani, Meurer, Benedetti, Lopres. 2010 (19)	225	To analyze changes of the General Functional Fitness Index (GFFI) in 10 months elderly.	General Functional Fitness Index (GFFI).	14
Lustosa, Oliveira, Santos, Guedes, Parentoni, Pereira. 2010 (20)	7	To check the effect of functional exercise in community elderly for 8 weeks, the impact on DLIA and unipodalic balance.	Lawton and Brody scale; Unipodal support LLL / RLL.	14
Lustosa, Silva, Coelho, Pereira, Parentoni, Pereira. 2011 (21)	32	To check the effect of load muscle strength training in functional capacity and muscle strength of the knee extensors and their association, post-workout, on pre-frail elderly community.	TUG; 10 meters walking test.	21
Moraes, Correa, Pinto, Schuch, Radaelli, Gaya, et al. 2012 (22)	45	To check the effects on life quality of elderly, strength programs in functional capacity, reaction time and maximum strength.	Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec).	20
de Moraes, Souza, Pinheiro, Irigoyen, Medeiros, Koike. 2011 (23)	36	To investigate the effects of a multi-components program of physical fitness and functional capacity of hypertensive elderly patients.	Sit down and stand up from the chair and move around the house (SSCT); Putting socks on test. (PST).	17
Locks, Costa, Koppe, Yamaguti, Garcia, Gomes. 2012 (24)	45	To evaluate the stretching and / or resisted exercise effect, followed by detraining, on the functional status of the elderly.	6 min. walking test; Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (5 times).	19
Bento, Pereira, Ugrinowitsch, Rodacki. 2012 (25)	37	To analyze the effects of an aquatic exercise program in torque peak and its development rate during isometric contractions in the lower limbs and the performance of functional tests in the elderly.	Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec); Sit and reach; 6 min walk; 8 Foot Up And Go.	17
Simão, Avelar, Gomes, Neves, Mendonça, Miranda, et al. 2012 (26)	32	To investigate the effects of squat exercises with whole body vibration on plasma concentration of inflammatory markers and functional performance in elderly with osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee.	6 minutes walking test; Berg balance scale; 10 m walking test.	20
Aguiar, Januario, Junior, Gerage, Pina, do Nascimento, et al. 2013 (27)	18	To examine the effects of long-term creatine supplementation combined with strenght-resisted training, motor functional performance and body composition of elderly.	Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec); Arm Curl Test; standing up of the lying position from the floor.	18

Author / Year	Total sample number *	Aim	Instrument Functioning	Quality Score **
Raso e Greve. 2012 (28)	41	To determine the effect of an exercise protocol with weights or aerobic in the performance of ADLs in elder.	Speed to get up from a sitting position (SGUSP); Speed to get up from a lying position (SGULP); Speed to climb stairs (SCS); Speed to put on and tie the sneakers (SPOTS).	16
Lustosa, Pereira, Coelho, Pereira, Silva, Parentoni, et al. 2013 (29)	32	To examine the impact of muscle resistance on the muscular and functional performance and interleukin 6 in pre-frail women in the community.	TUG; 10 m walking test.	22
de Andrade, Gobbi, Coelho, Christofletti, Costa, Stella. 2013 (30)	30	To check the effects of an exercise program on the front cognitive function, postural control, functional capacity in Alzheimer's patients.	TUG; Sitting and getting up from the chair test (30 sec), Sit and reach; Berg balance scale.	21
Farinatti, Gerales, Bottaro, Lima, Albuquerque, Fleck, et al. 2013 (31)	41	To investigate the effect of different frequencies of resistance training on strength and functional performance in active elderly women.	TUG; Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (5 times); Pace speed tests.	20
Pinto, Correa, Radaelli, Cadore, Brown, Bottaro. 2013 (32)	36	To evaluate the short-term effects of strength training program on muscle quality and functional capacity of elderly women.	Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec); 8 Foot Up And Go.	19
Barduzzi, Junior, Neto, Aveiro. 2013 (33)	15	To evaluate the impact of aquatic physical therapy and terrestrial in the functional capacity of elderly patients with OA.	General pace speed; Rapid pace test (25 m); Up and down stairs.	18
de Araujo, de Oliveira, Martins, Pereira, Copetti, Safons et al. 2013 (34)	28	To evaluate the chronic effects of equotherapy on functional mobility, muscle strength and balance in the elderly.	TUG; Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec); Berg balance scale.	18
Arcoverde, Deslandes, Moraes, Almeida, de Araujo, Vasques, Silveira, et al. 2014 (35)	20	To evaluate the effect of aerobic exercise on cognition and functional capacity in patients with Alzheimer's.	Berg balance scale; TUG; Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec).	20
Abrahin, Rodrigues, Nascimento, Grigoletto, Sousa, Marçal. 2014 (36)	19	To compare the effects of resistance training on the inspiratory and expiratory pressure, functional performance and muscle strength in elderly women.	Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec).	17
da Silva e Berbel 2015 (37)	19	Evaluate the benefit of senior dance related to the balance and ADL in the elderly.	Lawton e Brody scale.	11

Note: * Elderly composed sample; ** Maximum score according to 27 questions of the Downs and Black Scale; min: minutes; sec: seconds; m: meter; RLL: right lower limb; LLL: left lower limb; ADL: activities of daily living.

Twenty-five instruments, selected, (tests, indexes and scales) were used to measure the functioning of the elder for encoding the domains of ICF, listed in Table 2. The analysis in the frequency of instruments such as the Sitting down and standing up from the

chair test, the TUG (Timed up and go test) and the 6 minutes walking test, showed in articles more frequently than others, twelve, nine, and six articles, respectively, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Frequency distribution of the instruments included and of the domains of the International Classification of Functioning and Health (ICF) contained in each instrument

Instrument Functioning	Frequency – n (%)	Domains ICF: n (%)
Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 sec)	9 (13.84%)	Activity: 3 (75%) Function and body structure: 1 (25%)
TUG - <i>Timed Up And Go Test</i>	9 (13.84%)	Activity: 6 (100%)
6 minutes walking test	6 (9.2%)	Activity: 3 (100%)
Berg balance scale	5 (7.7%)	Activity: 112 (75.1%) Function and body structure: 2 (1.3%) Environmental factor: 35 (23.6%)
10 meters walking test	4 (6.1%)	Activity: 2 (100%)
SGLP - Speed to get up from a lying position	3(4.6%)	Activity: 2 (100%)
Sitting down and standing up from the chair test (5 times)	3 (4.6%)	Activity: 5 (100%)
8 Foot Up And Go	3 (4.6%)	Activity: 5 (100%)
SCS - Speed to climb stairs	2 (3.1%)	Activity: 5 (71.4%) Environmental factor: 2 (28.6%)
Arm Curl Test	2 (3.1%)	Activity: 5 (100%)
Lawton e Brody scale	2 (3.1%)	Activity: 38 (69.09%) Function and body structure: 2 (3.64%) Environmental factor : 2 (3.64%) Participation: 12 (21.82%) Health condition: 1 (1.82%)
Sit and reach	2 (3.1%)	Activity: 3 (100%)
GUCMAH - Get up from the chair and move around the house test	2 (3.1%)	Activity: 7 (87.5%) Environmental factor: 1 (12.5%)
LLL/RLL Unipodal support	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 14 (100%)
800 m. walk/run	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 4 (100%)
Pace speed test	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 2 (100%)
GFFI - General functional fitness index	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 22 (100%)
HAQ questionnaire	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 33 (100%)
Lower Limb Functional Test	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 3 (75%) Function and body structure: 1 (25%)
UKP - Up from the kneeling position	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 3 (100%)
Obstacle Course Test (OCQTS and OCQLS)	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 6 (66.7%) Environmental factor: 3 (33.3%)
PST - Putting socks on test	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 2 (100%)
Rapid walking test (25 m)	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 3 (100%)
SPOTS - Speed to put on and tie the sneakers	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 2 (100%)
General pace speed	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 4 (100%)
SGUSP – Speed to get up from sitting position	1 (1.54%)	Activity: 2 (100%)

Note: s.: seconds; RLL: right lower limb; LLL: left lower limb; min.: minutes; m.: meters.

The collected instruments were coded according to the ICF domains and the results were expressed in the form of table and graph (Table 2 and Figure 2). The frequency in which the ICF domains appear in the collected instruments were: health condition

(0.28%), function and body structure (1.68%), activity (82.68%), share (3.35 %), environmental factors (12.01%) and people factors (0%). Regarding the field of personal factors there was no incidence/approach in any of the instruments.

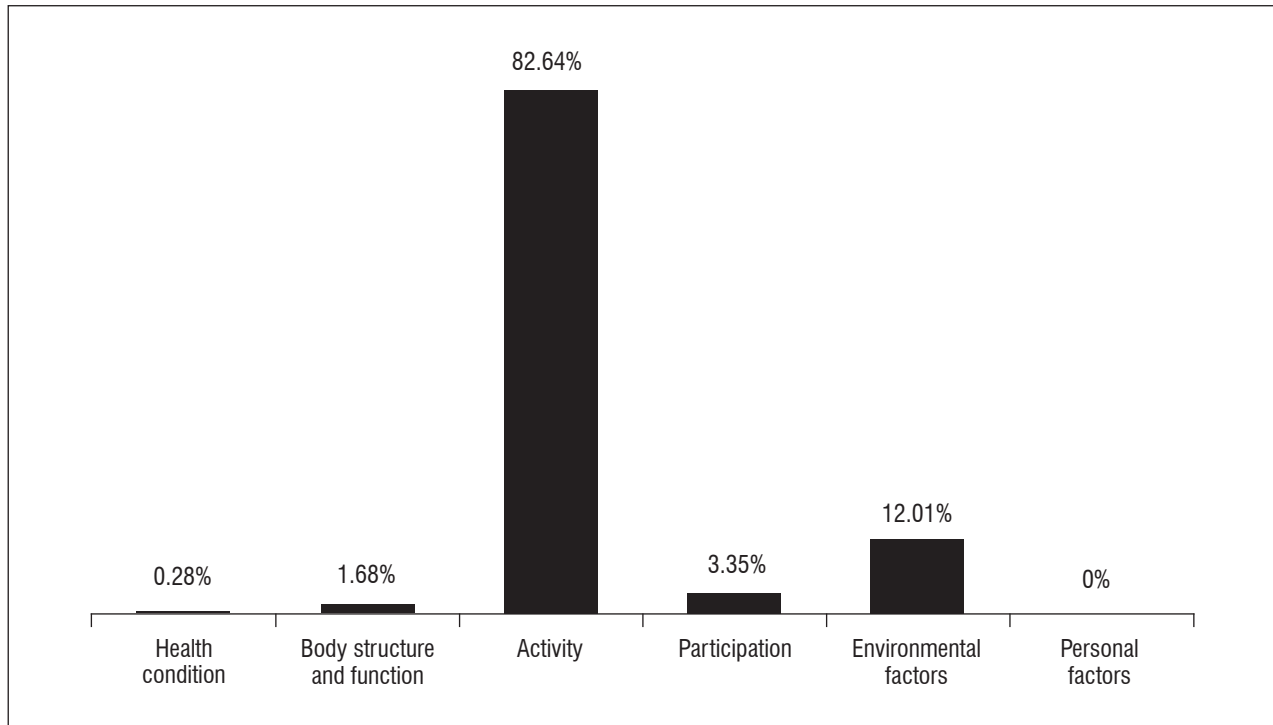


Figure 2 - ICF encoding total frequency in the included instruments.

Discussion

By the results of this article it is clear that the scientific literature regarding the functioning in the elderly is relatively abundant considering that great amount of publications in this article were found. However, as the final sample, remained 29 articles, containing 26 instruments. The amples of this research, which were subject of this article, ranged from 7 (20) to 225 (19) subjects, wherein most publications had 20 to 30 subjects. These results suggest that studies on elderly functioning with more robust samples should be encouraged, as in other countries, where studies with extended samples (38-40) or populational (41-43) are performed.

The displayed results have shown an increasing trend in the volume of publications in the studied period. Among the studied articles, six were published in 2013 and five in 2012; three articles were published in 2008; two in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014; one publication in 2004 and 2015; and 2005

and 2006 did not record any publication. The objectives of the selected publications for this article are fundamentally related to the verification of the effect of any intervention in the studied group, which shows itself consistent with the purpose of this review, if studied only scientific materials related to intervention studies. As regards the assessment of the syudied publications quality, there was a variation of 10 (17) to 22 points (29). This fact shows that the published and studied material have good quality, reflecting the methodological severity in the research execution.

Among the instruments used in the articles selected for this study, the sitting down and standing up from the chair test (30 seconds) was one of the most frequent, being used by 9 articles. This test was planned to be used, together, in the form of a battery of tests proposed for the study of physical parameters with functional mobility among independent elderly (44). This fact shows that the test has been used individually and dissociated form the rest of the test battery to which it belongs, addressing therefore

the functioning in a reductionist way. Moreover, in the creating process of the test battery to which the sitting down and standing up test (30 seconds) belongs, the functioning was addressed through the adaptation of an ICF previous explanatory model. The model used in the creation of this test battery includes disability as a result of a linear process that starts by diseases related factors, lifestyle and physical inactivity (44). If there are any changes in these components, the process would produce functional changes and would end in the occurrence of disability. The understanding of the functioning as a linear process should not be encouraged, considering that there are already more complete models, being the ICF the most current and recommended expression (45). Through argumentation developed here, you realize that the most commonly used instrument in studies of functioning in the elderly is being used disassociated from the other tests in the belonging battery. Besides, the referred battery is based on an explanatory model, that should have its discontinued use because there is a more complete and modern model.

Another test used with the same frequency as the previous was the TUG test, being used for falling risk tracking (46) and functional mobility admeasurement (47) plus, this test was created for the last mentioned goal (48). It should be noted that mobility is only one of the dimensions or areas of functioning. The World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS), for example, which is an instrument recommended by the WHO, the mobility is one of the 6 areas covered by the instrument (49). It can be seen by the above discussion, that when using the TUG as functional assessment tool, there is a distortion and functioning phenomenon is understood only as related to mobility, leaving aside issues such as life activities, interpersonal relationships, self-care, cognition participation, besides the environmental factors, body structures and functions, as recommended by the ICF (4). The 6-minute walking test was used in 6 researches. Note that this test suffers the same bias that the TUG because it would gauge mobility (50), ignoring other functioning aspects, as told previously.

The Berg balance scale was used in 5 articles and is used to evaluate the risk of falls (51), but it was originally designed for balance evaluation (52). The ICF defines balance as a body's function component, belonging to Chapter 2 "Sensory functions and pain",

specifically cited by b235 code, "Vestibular function", which includes the "Sensory functions of the inner ear related to position, balance and movement" (4). Therefore, using the Berg balance scale as functioning indicator means an extreme simplification. By taking balance as functioning indicator, there is the functioning underestimation and devaluation by neglecting other ICF proposed aspects.

Some other instruments used to measure functioning as VSSPs, VSSP2, VCS and VWS are, in nature flexibility and agility measurement tests, also representing reductionism when using these elements as functioning indicators. The sit and reach test also faces the same problem because it was designed to measure flexibility (53). The Lawton and Brody scale was designed to evaluate the instrumental activities of daily living (54). Like other instruments, can not be taken for functioning measurement because it works only with one phenomenon belonging aspect. Other tests showed a lower use frequency as the single leg support test, which was designed to measure risk of falls (55); the obstacle course test works the pace adaptability (56); the lower limb functional test evaluates balance and speed (11); the stand up from kneeling position and get up and sit in the chair 5 times tests reproduce situations where the decubitus change and agility are tested; walking or running 800 meters, walking and walking speed test work mobility and gait; test putting on socks, an activity of daily living; 8 feet up and go test was designed to assess the dynamic balance (57); the general functional fitness index addresses the coordination, upper limbs strength endurance, aerobic endurance, flexibility, dynamic agility or balance (58); the arm curl test was designed to evaluate the upper limb strength (59); and the get up from the chair and move around the house test works with daily living activities (60). All tests referred to in this paragraph incur on the inconsistency of taking the functioning the reduced way, using one or some of its aspects as an indicator.

The Health assessment questionnaire (HAQ) is a proposed tool to gauge functional capacity, consisting of 8 areas (dressing, getting up, eating, walking, personal hygiene, reach objects, grasp objects and other activities). Also this instrument clearly ignores some components of the functional model proposed by the ICF.

It is clearly observed that none of the instruments used to collect information about functioning does not respect the model presented by the ICF. The same

bias is found in almost all instruments: functioning is understood or measured only by one or some of its components, addressed in a reductive and simplified way.

All researched instruments in this article include items related to the activities domain. Lawton and Brody scale is the one contemplating larger amount of ICF domains, excluding only the contextual factors. Besides activities, the Berg balance scale includes functions and body structures and environmental factors; the get up from the chair and move around the house test; the obstacle course test; and the climbing stairs speed test contemplate environmental factors; the sit down and get up of the chair test (30 seconds) and the lower limb functional test contemplate the function and body structure. All the other tests (19 instruments) only include the activity field. Imbalance can clearly be seen between functioning domains evaluated by the studied instruments, with a strong predominance of activities domain, which is evidenced by Figure 2, in which the activities are the area most often found in the analyzed instruments.

Note that the option for intervention research study may lead the reader to reason that the result would be expected because this type of study can essentially treat functions and body structures. However, the results of this study themselves contradict this argument because they show that the activities were more frequent in the analyzed articles. In addition, central role should not be assigned to study design but to the functioning in its outcome. Regardless of the study design, the functioning concept should not vary.

Considering that this study shows disagreement between the functioning approach and the model proposed by the ICF, a newly translated and adapted instrument for use in Brazil may be of special interest. It is the WHODAS, as described before, respects the model proposed by the ICF. Furthermore, because it is composed of 36 questions at most, has relatively reduced application time and generates scores for domains, allowing individual analysis of these domains and the targeted interventions planning (49). Certainly this instrument is also open to criticism and the main one is the fact of not having a specific domain for environmental factors. However, even with this weakness, it is shown as a good alternative to the functioning assessment.

Conclusion

Overall, the results of this review indicate gaps in the subject that must be corrected. The main problem is the functioning interpretation predominantly in the activities field, with few studies and tools that address other areas equally. Instruments that include participation and environmental factors area in the evaluation of functioning should be proposed or used for a correct functioning measurement in all conceptual extension of it, as proposed by the ICF.

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