Introduction Early screening of the risk for Developmental Coordination Disorder is an important medico-social issue. However, the identification process is complex, interdisciplinary and, in France and in Switzerland, is based on an assessment done by a psychomotor therapist or occupational therapist (Albaret & De Castelnau, 2005). Since they often come into more frequent contact with young children, psychologists and nursery school teachers would benefit from the use of a valid questionnaire in French, designed to identify preschool children at risk of motor difficulties, who would benefit from standardized motor testing. For this reason, we conducted the European French adaptation of the Little Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire (Little DCDQ E-French) (Rihtman et al, 2011) for children aged between 3 years and 5 years 11 months, i.e. during nursery school.

Methods The Little DCD-Q contains 15 statements describing a number of tasks commonly performed by young children. The parent is asked to rate the ability of their child to perform each task, on a five points Likert scale ranging from not at all, a little, moderately, or strongly. The instructions emphasize that the parent should compare the level of coordination of the child with other children of the same age and gender. The questionnaire provides an overall score of 75, comprised of three sub-scores of 25 for three distinct factors: motor control, fine motor and general coordination (Rihtman et al, 2011). The cross-cultural adaptation was based on the recommendations of Vallerand and Halliwell (1989) and Beaton et al. (2000). Stages of translation and back-translation were performed and yielded a first working version whose quality was estimated by 8 English native speakers. This version was then presented to a panel of experts (including psychometricians and pediatricians) as well as parents of children aged 3 to 5 years 11 months. The suitability of the tool to the European Francophone culture, to the children’s age and clarity of the items were evaluated. Scores and comments resulted in additional adjustments to the French version of the questionnaire.

Results A first French version of the questionnaire was proposed in a preliminary sample of 89 mothers and fathers of children aged 3 to 5 years 11 months. The value of Cronbach’s alpha averaged 0.78. The difference between the scores of children aged 3 and 4 years was not significant for any of the factors (overall score: 72 ± 3 and 72 ± 4), while children aged 5 had significantly higher scores (score overall 74 ± 1). A second version of the questionnaire with responses categories more closely aligned with the original version was also tested and the data analysis is currently in progress. Conclusion Preliminary results suggest that the European French adaptation of Little DCDQ has satisfactory psychometric qualities; however, further analysis and development of valid cut-off scores on a larger sample is recommended. The use of this version of the questionnaire for children above 4 years and 11 months has yet to be demonstrated. The adaptation of a screening tool for motor disorders amongst young preschoolers from the European Francophone population will enable better identification of children who would benefit from standardized motor assessment performed by a developmental specialist.

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