Analyzing the VQ- showing progress

September 7, 2011

Hi,

Myself and another colleague are trying to do a mini audit of our interventions at a sensory clinic, we have completed VQ's for all clients that attended, and are now looking to find a format to analyse the data gathered, hopefully to show progression. A colleague mentioned that previously she had seen a discussion topic on the list serve which gave details for someone who had done work similar to this and had good format for analysing the VQ. Does anyone know more information about this or have a copy of the analysis?

many thanks

Zoë Zaufal

September 7, 2011

Dear Zoe:
My team has done some time series single case study design work using the VQ with a therapeutic horseback riding population. Professor Christine Raber at Shawnee State University in Ohio has completed extensive work using the VQ with older people with dementia (I believe her email is craber@shawneeestate.edu). Cited below are my team's two articles:


In addition to anyone else who might contact you, feel free to contact me or Dr. Raber off list if you would like more information or have an interest in a research collaboration.
Hello Zoe and all,

Using the VQ to measure progress is an excellent way to examine the impact of your interventions, and recommended when using the Remotivation Process. Dr. Taylor's articles provide wonderful examples of ways to use the VQ, and illustrate both quantitative and qualitative approaches to using VQ scores to measure change.

I have published research examining volitional expression of persons with moderate dementia (see citations below). My student research teams have been examining VQ scores of participants in a single study research project where participants received one of three options: no Remotivation Process intervention during an activity session, general RP intervention, or individualized RP tailored to their preferences and interests. Examining VQ data in a meaningful way across participants can be challenging since the VQ is an ordinal measure (continuum of Passive to Spontaneous), and was designed to be interpreted more qualitatively versus having a total score. We looked at both individual items from VQ (ie, examining each of the 14 items over time) as well as examining a summed score, as Dr. Taylor did in the first article she listed (Taylor, Kielhofner, Smith, Butler, et al).

We found that trying to make meaningful interpretations from the individual items was very time consuming and challenging, but that it also yielded more discrete information about the change process, particularly when examined in light of the levels of volition (exploration, competence, and achievement). We used Excel spreadsheets to generate graphs to visually inspect the data, and we did this for both individual item analysis and summed totals across sessions. It can be a bit time consuming to set up an Excel file with scores from all 14 items, but once you have it set up, it becomes quicker. And, using summed scores is even quicker in Excel and you can generate an x-y graph (x= VQ score & y=chronological order of sessions, which is helpful to see the change across time.

Using the summed scores (ie, convert the scale to number wherein Passive=1, Hesitant=2, Involved=3, Spontaneous=4) gives an overall picture of level of volition in that session, but doesn't capture the nuances and possible mechanisms of volitional change that occurred in that session. Also, using a summed score doesn't include the qualitative data derived from the Environmental form, which often provides cues to factors that may have been influencing the person's score on a particular item.

So, one question to ask is how much detail regarding change do you want or need to help you examine the progression of volitional change? I think an overall score gives a you a thumbnail picture, but often really leaves out the kinds of details that may help you interpret the impact of your intervention.
I'd be interested to hear more from therapists using VQ to measure change and the processes others are using, both clinically and for research purposes. Please feel free to contact me directly to discuss further.

Best regards,
Christine Raber
craber@shawnee.edu


September 7, 2011

Hello everybody!

I have used the VQ during many years for evidence based practice. It is a great tool to measure progress in different population. The qualitative and quantitative data has helped us to work with families, the person, other professionals and anybody who is part of the team in different settings in a rigorous way, establishing measurable short term goals in exploratory, competence and achievement phase of intervention with people. The exploratory phase or level of change is for many people (person, social supports, caregivers) the most difficult to take. Teaching volition and the volitional questionnaire to them, and sharing concrete changes and/or measuring them together has been tremendously useful for planning and intervention. During the other two phases the tool continues to measure change and also we get persons involved in self assessment to monitor their progress and goal setting.

As Christine says I have converted the ratings in numbers, and also link with detailed qualitative information about the unique volitional process persons follow.

Anything you need, I am always here..

Much love
Carmen Gloria de las Heras, MS, OTR
Chile