INTRODUCTION

Fatigue is a common complaint in children with chronic health conditions (e.g., cancer, diabetes, rheumatic diseases). The Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory Multidimensional Fatigue Scale (PedsQL MFS) is a standardized questionnaire designed to measure fatigue in children with chronic illnesses (1).

Children with hearing loss (CHL) are known to experience difficulties with speech perception in noisy and reverberant environments, as well as tinnitus, vertigo, sleep apnea, and hyperactivity (2). Reports, interviews, and parental reports have suggested that CHL experience greater overall hearing-related fatigue during classroom activities than children with normal hearing (CNH) (3). Subjective fatigue questionnaires exist for general fatigue, but no measures have been validated for use specifically evaluating hearing-related fatigue.

Here we report on pilot work from our initial attempts to develop such a tool. Vanderbilt Hearing-Related Fatigue Scale (VHRFS). The VHRFS was used in a larger study examining noisy and reverberant conditions, similar to those encountered in a classroom.

METHODS

Edition. Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – 4 (PPVT) (4) and the Hearing-Related Fatigue Scale (VHRFS). The VHRFS was used in a larger study examining noisy and reverberant conditions, similar to those encountered in a classroom.

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Hearing-Related Fatigue Scale (VHRFS). The VHRFS was used in a larger study examining noisy and reverberant conditions, similar to those encountered in a classroom.

PURPOSE

The first aim was to examine the validity of the non-standardized VHRFS by comparing VHRFS scores to a standardized, clinically available fatigue scale – the PedsQL Multidimensional Fatigue Scale.

CHILDREN

Children ages 6-12 years were recruited as part of a larger ongoing study examining listening effort and fatigue in children. Children with a diagnosis of CHL and CNH were consented before the start of data collection. The study protocol was approved by the Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board.

RESULTS

Table 1: Summary of CHL and CNH demographic information and test scores. Bolded values indicate a significant group difference (*p < .05). The VHRFS (F = .473, p = .493).

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

As part of a larger study examining fatigue in CHL, the VHRFS was created in attempts to quantify subjective and objective measures of fatigue experienced by children with hearing loss.

CONTRIBUTORS

The study suggests that further development is needed on the VHRFS before it can be used to quantify hearing-related fatigue in children.

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REFERENCES


