Interrater-reliability within the Fascial Distortion Model using patient's body language and subjective verbal complaint for pain.

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Objective: The Fascial Distortion Model (FDM) is an anatomical perspective which envisions patient’s pain and discomfort as an alteration of fascia. Verbal and non-verbal communication is used as a diagnostic tool for classification of certain fascial distortions. Recently, two studies have shown acceptable (multirater kappa (κ) = 0.51, (Anker 2011)) and substantial (κ = 0.61, (Stechmann 2011)) reliability using the patient’s body language for pain. Although body language is not the only diagnostic criteria which is used in the FDM (Typaldos 2002), other parameters have not been investigated from a scientific point of view.

Research question: Is the patient’s body language in combination with the verbal complaint a reliable criterion for classifying fascial distortions among multiple raters?

Method: The body language and verbal pain descriptions from 35 patients have been recorded on videotape under standardized circumstances. These videos have been shown to 20 certified FDM practitioners with a mean of 3 (± 2.1 standard deviation) years of experience, who assigned every case to one out of seven fascial distortions. The agreement has been statistically analyzed using the κ-coefficient as an indicator of reliability.

Result: This study shows that there is acceptable agreement among qualified FDM practitioners with κ = 0.50 (standard error = 0.0063, 95% confidence interval = 0.49 to 0.52) concerning the body language in combination with the verbal complaint.

Conclusion: The results have shown that the body language in combination with the verbal description of pain is a reliable criterion for the classification of fascial distortions among qualified testers.

References
