Abstract

Background: The rapid aging of the workforce has motivated the development of studies that seek to maintain good health conditions, work ability, autonomy and the social integration of workers. Objectives: To present the theoretical framework, available measurements and models for promoting work ability. Discussion: In the field of rehabilitation, the sedimentation of the conceptual model of the ability to work has a normative role and may be useful for assessing whether a person has a temporary or permanent loss of capacity as well as for defining a specific rehabilitation program. The concept may further help determine different aspects, both internal and external to the person, that could result in improved or restored work ability. Conclusion: In order to enhance the available measurements, propose new interventions for promoting work ability and to further its use as an outcome measure in rehabilitation, it is necessary to assume that the predictors relate to the individuals, their work and their life outside of work in dynamic interactions that require analytical methods which account for the multidimensionality of the construct.

Keywords
Physical therapy, aging, work ability, rehabilitation, disability.