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# TRANSLATION, CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION OF THE FOOT FUNCTION INDEX - REVISED (FFI-R)

## TRADUÇÃO, ADAPTAÇÃO CULTURAL E VALIDAÇÃO DO ÍNDICE DE FUNÇÃO DO PÉ REVISADO (FFI-R)

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to translate, culturally adapt, and validate the "Foot Function Index - Revised" (FFI-R) for use in Brazilian Portuguese. **Methods:** The scale was translated and administered (as recommended by Guillemin, 2000) to 52 patients in the postoperative period after foot and ankle surgery. Seven days after the initial assessment, the scale was readministered by a different interviewer. The data were entered into an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed using SPSS version 23.0 software for Mac. Reproducibility was assessed using intraclass correlation analysis. Results were considered statistically significant at a type I error rate of 5%. **Results:** The following random-effects intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) were obtained for each score on the FFI-R: 0.625 for pain, 0.558 for stiffness, 0.757 for difficulty, 0.718 for activity restrictions, 0.854 for personal concerns, and 0.753 for the total score. **Conclusion:** The FFI-R was successfully translated to Portuguese and culturally adapted for use in Brazilian patients, demonstrating satisfactory validity and reliability. **Level of Evidence I, Testing of Previously Developed Diagnostic Criteria on Consecutive Patients (with universally applied reference "gold" standard).**

**Keywords:** Surveys and questionnaires. Translating. Foot diseases. Ankle injuries.

### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** O objetivo deste estudo traduzir, fazer a adaptação cultural e a validação do "Foot Function Index - Revised" (FFI-R) para o idioma português. **Métodos:** A escala foi traduzida e aplicada (segundo recomendado por Guillemin, 2000) a 52 pacientes depois de cirurgia do pé e tornozelo. Sete dias depois da avaliação inicial, a escala foi novamente aplicada por outro entrevistador. Os dados foram inseridos em uma planilha do Excel e a análise estatística foi realizada no software SPSS 23.0 para Mac. A análise de correlação intraclass foi realizada para avaliar a reprodutibilidade. Os resultados foram considerados estatisticamente significantes em erro do tipo I de até 5%. **Resultados:** Foram obtidos os seguintes coeficientes de correlação intraclass (CCI) de efeitos aleatórios para cada pontuação no FFI-R: 0,625 para dor, 0,558 para rigidez, 0,757 para dificuldade, 0,718 para restrição de atividades, 0,854 para preocupações pessoais e 0,753 para o escore total. **Conclusão:** O FFI-R foi traduzido com sucesso para o português e adaptado culturalmente para aplicação em pacientes brasileiros, demonstrando validade e confiabilidade satisfatórias. **Nível de Evidência I, Teste de Critérios Diagnósticos Desenvolvidos Anteriormente em Pacientes Consecutivos (com padrão de referência "ouro" aplicado).**

**Descritores:** Inquéritos e questionários. Tradução. Doenças do pé. Traumatismos do tornozelo.

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### INTRODUCTION

The use of assessment scales in scientific studies is an essential requirement for the comparison of different treatments in patients with the same diagnosis.<sup>1-9</sup> The majority of outcome assessment scales are developed in English and directed at patients who speak this particular language. As a result, they must be translated and culturally adapted in order to be used in any other country. The statistical properties of the adapted instrument must then be evaluated based on published criteria to ensure its equivalence to the original instrument.<sup>10,11</sup> The aim of this study was to translate, adapt and validate the "Foot Function Index - Revised" (FFI-R) for use in Brazilian Portuguese.<sup>12</sup>

The FFI was developed to measure the impact of the pain, disability and activity restriction associated with foot pathology on patient functioning. It is a self-administered instrument composed of 23 items divided into three subscales.<sup>1,13-15</sup> The FFI has already been translated, culturally adapted and validated for use in Brazilian Portuguese.<sup>16</sup>

The FFI-R was developed at a later date in response to criticism of the original scale. After the unidimensionality of the FFI-R was confirmed by an analysis of its subscales, responses were coded into four categories for ease of use. The FFI is a pioneer instrument in the patient-centered measurement of foot health, and is widely used throughout the world. Its use of concrete indicators to provide

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a reliable measure of foot health introduced an important paradigm shift from subjective to objective measurements in the area of clinical foot assessments. The coding of the FFI-R into four response categories facilitated its use in the assessment of foot health.<sup>3,12</sup>

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The translation and cultural adaptation processes were carried out in five stages, as recommended by the literature:<sup>10,11,17</sup> a) stage 1 (translation): the FFI-R was first translated to Portuguese by two independent Brazilian translators, one of whom was an official translator, while the other was a technical translator with expertise in health care. Both translators were aware of the purpose of the study; b) stage 2 (synthesis): the translations were compared and discussed with the translators. When disagreements arose, changes were made as required until a consensus was reached (Portuguese version 1); c) stage 3 (back translation to English): the first Portuguese version of the scale was translated to English by two native American translators blind to the purpose of the study; d) stage 4 (expert committee review): a meeting was scheduled with all four translators to produce a "pre-final" version of the scale; e) stage 5: cultural adaptation: the pre-final version of the questionnaire was administered to 52 patients aged 18 years and older. The version was considered final when all items were judged as "not understood" by less than 10% of the sample.<sup>1-4,12</sup>

The inclusion criteria were late postoperative period (at least 12 months) after foot or ankle surgery at the Foot and Ankle Department of the Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual (HSPE), and absence of medication use or additional procedures for one week after the administration of the pre-final version of the questionnaire to ensure reproducibility. The presence of cognitive impairments which could interfere with the administration of the questionnaire was the only exclusion criterion. The sociocultural characteristics of the 52 patients in the late postoperative period after foot and ankle surgery who participated in the reproducibility and validation studies of the Portuguese version of the FFI-R were as follows: 39 were female (75%), and 13 were male (25%); mean age was 56 years (range: 39 to 81 years); mean length of postoperative period was 4 years (range: 1 to 11 years); 22 had completed secondary education, 29 had a university degree, and one had gone to graduate school. Study approved in the Brazilian Platform CAAE: 49066915.9.0000.5463 under Opinion constituted 1,283,807.

### Reproducibility and validity of the portuguese version of the FFI-R

The reproducibility of the Portuguese version of the FFI-R was evaluated in a sample of 52 patients in the late postoperative period after foot or ankle surgery. The scale was administered by a previously trained interviewer (interviewer 1). After a seven day period, a new assessment was conducted by interviewer 2.

Data were entered into an Excel® spreadsheet and analyzed using SPSS version 23.0 for MAC. The mean and standard deviation of each item in the Brazilian version of the FFI-R were calculated. The relationship between the assessments was evaluated by linear correlation analysis followed by paired comparisons of scores on the first and second evaluations. This procedure was performed using non-parametric methods due to the skewed distribution of the data. Lastly, reproducibility was assessed using intraclass correlation (ICC) analysis. Results were considered statistically significant at a type I error rate of 5%.

## RESULTS

When the pre-final version of the questionnaire was administered to the validation sample in the cultural adaptation stage, no item reached the 10% comprehension threshold, and as such, the

instrument was deemed culturally appropriate. The final version of the FFI-R in Portuguese is presented in the Appendix 1. The mean time of questionnaire administration was 20 minutes, and the interval between the two assessments was seven days.

The mean  $\pm$  SD of pain scores on the first and second assessment were  $44.46\% \pm 21.36$  and  $39.21\% \pm 18.36$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.674, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) corresponding to the test-retest reliability of this particular score was 0.625 [95%CI 0.428 to 0.766],  $p < 0.001$ . (Table 1) The mean  $\pm$  SD of stiffness scores on the first and second assessment were  $39.00\% \pm 20.54$  and  $38.96\% \pm 17.40$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.513, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects ICC of the stiffness score was 0.558 [95%CI 0.340 to 0.719],  $p < 0.001$ .

The mean  $\pm$  SD of difficulty scores on the first and second assessment were  $44.47\% \pm 28.33$  and  $39.81\% \pm 24.01$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.754, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects ICC of the FFI-R difficulty score was 0.745 [95%CI 0.595 to 0.845],  $p < 0.001$ . The mean  $\pm$  SD of activity limitation scores on the first and second assessment were  $41.35\% \pm 23.29$  and  $40.97\% \pm 21.05$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.756, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects ICC of the activity limitation score was 0.718 [95%CI 0.556 to 0.827],  $p < 0.001$ . The mean  $\pm$  SD of social activity scores on the first and second assessment were  $36.44\% \pm 23.64$  and  $39.95\% \pm 19.57$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.691, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects ICC of the social functioning score was 0.854 [95%CI 0.700 to 0.913],  $p < 0.001$ . The mean  $\pm$  SD of total scores on the first and second assessment were  $41.01\% \pm 4.23$  and  $39.01\% \pm 0.09$ , respectively. The Spearman correlation between these values was 0.760, significant at  $p < 0.001$ . The two scores did not significantly differ according to Wilcoxon's paired t-test,  $p = 0.06$ . The random-effects ICC of total scores on the FFI-R was 0.793 [95%CI 0.667 to 0.876],  $p < 0.001$ .

**Table 1.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for pain scores.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.625	.428	.766	4,338	51	52	.000

## DISCUSSION

When assessing the outcome of orthopedic treatments, there is often significant concern about the impact of the intervention on the patient's quality of life, emotional well-being, and performance in daily activities.<sup>18</sup> Two main challenges are often faced in the assessment process: one concerns the quantification of subjective information and the selection of questions for assessment instruments, while the other involves the administration of these questionnaires in different countries to allow for cross-cultural comparisons.<sup>19,20</sup> These instruments are usually developed in English, and must therefore be translated and analyzed for their statistical properties prior to being used in any other cultural context.<sup>1,2,10,11</sup>

In the present study, no comprehension issues were encountered, since all items in the questionnaire refer to patients' daily activities. In the cultural adaptation stage, no item reached the 10% comprehension threshold, and as such, the pre-final version of the FFI-R was deemed culturally appropriate.

The reproducibility of the Portuguese version of the FFI-R was evaluated in a sample of 52 patients in the late postoperative period after foot or ankle surgery. The scale was first administered by a previously trained researcher (assessment 1), then readministered by another interviewer (assessment 2). Scores on assessments 1 and 2 did not significantly differ from one another and were significantly correlated, which speaks to the reliability of the instrument. The Portuguese version of the FFI-R was also shown to have strong internal consistency, as evidenced by intraclass correlation analysis. (Tables 1 to 6)

**Table 2.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for stiffness scores.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.558	.340	.719	3,522	51	52	.000

**Table 3.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for difficulty scores.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.745	.595	.845	6,833	51	52	.000

**Table 4.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for activity limitation scores.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.718	.556	.827	6,083	51	52	.000

**Table 5.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for social functioning scores.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.854	.760	.913	12,715	51	52	.000

**Table 6.** Random-effects intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for total scores on the FFI-R.

	Intraclass correlation	95% Confidence interval		F Test with true value 0			
		Lower bound	Upper bound	Value	df1	df2	Sig
Single measures	.793	.667	.876	8,678	51	52	.000

## CONCLUSION

The FFI-R was successfully translated and culturally adapted for use in Brazilian patients, demonstrating satisfactory validity and reliability.

**AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS:** Each author made significant individual contributions to this manuscript. KCS (0000-0003-1534-9654)\* performed the translation into Portuguese and written the manuscript. MVPF (0000-0002-2320-9769)\* Carried out a bibliographic review. PRO (0000-0002-1991-1571)\* e PYLW (0000-001-5204-7095)\* Applied the score as evaluators 1 and 2 respectively. \*ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID).

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## Appendix 1. Instrumento 1 - IFP-Índice Funcional do Pé formato longo Versão 3.

RG do indivíduo: [    ] [    ] [    ] [    ] Índice Funcional do Pé Revisado (IFP-R) Data: [    ] [    ] / [    ] [    ] / [    ] [    ] [    ]

## DOR

Por favor, leia antes de responder.

- Por favor, circule o número que indica qual a intensidade da sua dor no pé em cada situação a seguir na última semana
- Por exemplo, quando perguntado a intensidade da sua dor no pé no seu pior momento, se você não sentiu “nenhuma dor” circule o número 1 e se você sentiu “dor intensa” circule o número 4
- Se, para alguns itens, a questão não é pertinente circule o número 5
- Por favor, forneça uma resposta para cada item

1. Na última semana qual a intensidade da sua dor no pé:

	Sem dor	Dor leve	Dor moderada	Dor intensa	
1. Antes de se levantar da cama pela manhã?	1	2	3	4	
2. Quando ficou em pé descalço pela primeira vez?	1	2	3	4	
3. Quando andou descalço pela primeira vez?	1	2	3	4	
4. Quando ficou em pé com sapatos?	1	2	3	4	
5. Quando andou com o sapatos?	1	2	3	4	
6. Quando ficou em pé com as palmilhas feitas sob medida?	1	2	3	4	5 – não uso palmilhas
7. Quando andou com as palmilhas feitas sob medida?	1	2	3	4	5 – não uso palmilhas
8. No final de um dia típico?	1	2	3	4	
9. Quando você sentiu câimbras nos pés?	1	2	3	4	
10. Antes de você se deitar à noite?	1	2	3	4	
11. No pior momento	1	2	3	4	

## RIGIDEZ

Por favor, leia antes de responder.

- Por favor, circule o número que indica qual a intensidade da sua rigidez no pé em cada situação na última semana
- Por exemplo, quando perguntado a intensidade da sua rigidez no pé no seu pior momento, se você não sentiu “nenhuma rigidez” circule o número 1 e se você sentiu “rigidez intensa” circule o número 4
- Se, para alguns itens, a questão não é pertinente circule o número 5
- Por favor, forneça uma resposta para cada item

1. Na última semana qual a intensidade da rigidez no pé:

	Sem dor	Dor leve	Dor moderada	Dor intensa	
12. Antes de se levantar da cama pela manhã?	1	2	3	4	
13. Quando ficou em pé descalço?	1	2	3	4	
14. Quando andou descalço?	1	2	3	4	
15. Quando ficou em pé com sapatos?	1	2	3	4	
16. Quando andou com sapatos?	1	2	3	4	
17. Quando andou com as palmilhas feitas sob medida ?	1	2	3	4	5 – não uso palmilhas
18. Antes de você se deitar à noite?	1	2	3	4	
19. No pior momento	1	2	3	4	

## DIFICULDADE

Por favor, leia antes de responder.

- Por favor, circule o número que indica qual a intensidade de dificuldade que você sentiu para realizar cada atividade devido a seus problemas no pé na última semana
- Por exemplo, quando perguntado qual a dificuldade que seus problemas no pé causou quando você andou pela casa, se você não sentiu “nenhuma dificuldade” circule o número 1 e se você sentiu “dificuldade intensa” circule o número 4
- Se, em alguns itens, a questão não se aplica circule o número 5
- Por favor, forneça uma resposta para cada item

1. Na última semana qual a intensidade de dificuldade que seus problemas no pé lhe causaram:

	Sem dificuldade	Dificuldade leve	dificuldade moderada	Dificuldade intensa
20. Andando pela casa?	1	2	3	4
21. Andando fora de casa em terreno irregular?	1	2	3	4
22. Andando quatro ou mais quarteirões?	1	2	3	4
23. Subindo escadas?	1	2	3	4
24. Descendo escadas?	1	2	3	4
25. Ficando na ponta dos pés?	1	2	3	4
26. Ficando em pé normalmente?	1	2	3	4
27. Quando você carregou ou levantou objetos com mais de 2,5kg?		2	3	4
28. Levantando de uma cadeira	1	2	3	4
29. Andando rápido	1	2	3	4
30. Correndo	1	2	3	4



# Appendix 1. Instrumento 1 - IFP-Índice Funcional do Pé formato longo Versão 3.

	Sem dificuldade	Dificuldade leve	dificuldade moderada	Dificuldade intensa
31. Descendo uma ladeira a pé	1	2	3	4
32. Andando em ritmo constante	1	2	3	4
33. Andando sua distância habitual?	1	2	3	4
34. Mantendo-se em equilíbrio?	1	2	3	4
35. Fazendo a higiene do seu pé?	1	2	3	4
36. Andando com auxiliares de marcha?	1	2	3	4
37. Devido aos riscos na sua casa?	1	2	3	4
38. Dirigindo veículo que requer seu pé para manobras	1	2	3	4
39. Realizando suas atividades de vida diária?	1	2	3	4

## LIMITAÇÃO DE ATIVIDADES

Por favor, leia antes de responder.

- Por favor, circule o número que indica com que frequência você realizou cada uma dessas atividades na última semana devido aos dos seus pés
- Por exemplo, quando perguntado qual a frequência que você usou bengala dentro de casa devido a seus problemas nos pés , se você “nunca” usou circule o número 1 e se você “usou o tempo todo” circule o número 4
- Se, para alguns itens, a questão não é pertinente circule o número 5
- Por favor, forneça uma resposta para cada item

### 1. Na última semana quanto tempo você:

	Nunca	Algumas vezes	A maior parte do tempo	O tempo todo	
40. Usa uma bengala, muletas ou andador dentro de casa devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não usobengalas,etc
41. Usa uma bengala, muletas ou andador fora de casa devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não uso muletas,etc
42. Fica dentro de casa a maior parte do dia devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	
43. Fica na cama a maior parte do dia devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	
44. Toma cuidado extra quando anda no meio de muita gente por medo de lesão no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não ando no meio de muita gente
45. Limita sua atividades fora de casa devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não faço atividades fora de casa
46. Limita sua atividadesde laser/esportes devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não pratico esportes
47. Escolhe não usar transporte público devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não uso tranp. público
48. Escolhe não dirigir devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4	5=não dirijo

## QUESTÕES SOCIAIS

Por favor, leia antes de responder.

- Por favor, circule o número que indica qual a frequência você sentiu o seguinte na última semana devido a seus pés
- Por exemplo, quando perguntado com que frequência você sentiu medo de cair por causa de seus problemas no pé , se você “nunca” sentiu medo circule o número 1 e se você sentiu “o tempo todo” circule o número 4
- Se, para alguns itens, a questão não é pertinente circule o número 5
- Por favor, forneça uma resposta para cada item

### 1. Na última semana quanto tempo você sentiu:

	Nunca	Poucas vezes	Algumas vezes	A maior parte do tempo	
49. Medo de cair?	1	2	3	4	
50. Vergonha de mancar?	1	2	3	4	5=não manca
51. Dificuldade de encontrar calçados da moda?	1	2	3	4	5=não usa sapatos da moda
52. Dificuldade de encontrar sapatos sociais?	1	2	3	4	
53. Vergonha por causa do calçado?	1	2	3	4	
54. Depressão por problemas nos pés?	1	2	3	4	
55. Dificuldade de encontrar um calçado adequado?	1	2	3	4	
56. Terrível pelos problemas nos pés?	1	2	3	4	

**Appendix 1.** Instrumento 1 - IFP-Índice Funcional do Pé formato longo Versão 3.

	Nunca	Poucas vezes	Algumas vezes	A maior parte do tempo
57. Limitação das atividades sociais devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4
58. Irritação constante por você ter que administrar a dor no pé?	1	2	3	4
59. Dificuldade de participar de atividades sociais devido ao calçado?	1	2	3	4
60. Piora para realizar as atividades diárias?	1	2	3	4
61. Sono ruim devido a dor no pé?	1	2	3	4
62. Peso de precisar tomar as medicações para controlar a dor no pé ?	1	2	3	4
63.Dificuldade de encontrar calçados confortáveis?	1	2	3	4
64. Dificuldade de encontrar emprego devido aos problemas no pé?	1	2	3	4
65. Preocupação com a aparência dos seus pés?	1	2	3	4
66. Preocupação com a limitação do trabalho doméstico?	1	2	3	4
67. Preocupação com a possibilidade de amputação do pé, perna ou dedos do pé?	1	2	3	4

**COMENTÁRIOS PESSOAIS**  
Por favor comente sobre:  
1. As orientações foram claras?  
2. Alguma das questões foi difícil de entender?  
3. Alguma das questões não foi clara? Se sim, quais e por que?  
4. Alguma das questões que lhe incomodou? Se sim, quais e por que?  
5. Há alguma questão a respeito do seus pés que não foi perguntada ou você acrescentaria ao questionário? Se sim, quais questões?  
6. Você teve algum problema com esse questionário que você gostaria de mencionar? Se sim, quais problemas?

**Obrigada por participar desse estudo:**  
Pontuação de dor\_\_\_\_\_  
Pontuação de rigidez\_\_\_\_\_  
Pontuação de dificuldade\_\_\_\_\_  
Pontuação de atividades\_\_\_\_\_  
Pontuação social\_\_\_\_\_  
Pontuação acumulada\_\_\_\_\_