

Concurrent Validity of the BDEFS-CA in a Canadian Sample of Children with and without ADHD

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Introduction

- The Barkley Deficits in Executive Functioning Scale – Children and Adolescents (BDEFS-CA) is a 70-item parent-completed behavior rating scale used to assess executive functioning.
- It includes five subscales: Self-Management to Time, Self-Organization/Problem Solving, Self-Restraint, Self-Motivation, and Self-Regulation of Emotions.
- The present study investigated the concurrent validity of the BDEFS-CA by determining its correlation with the Conners 3, a well-established measure of ADHD symptoms.
- Given the relatedness of ADHD symptoms and executive dysfunction, it was expected that the BDEFS-CA would be highly positively correlated with the ADHD index of the Conners 3.

Participants & Methods

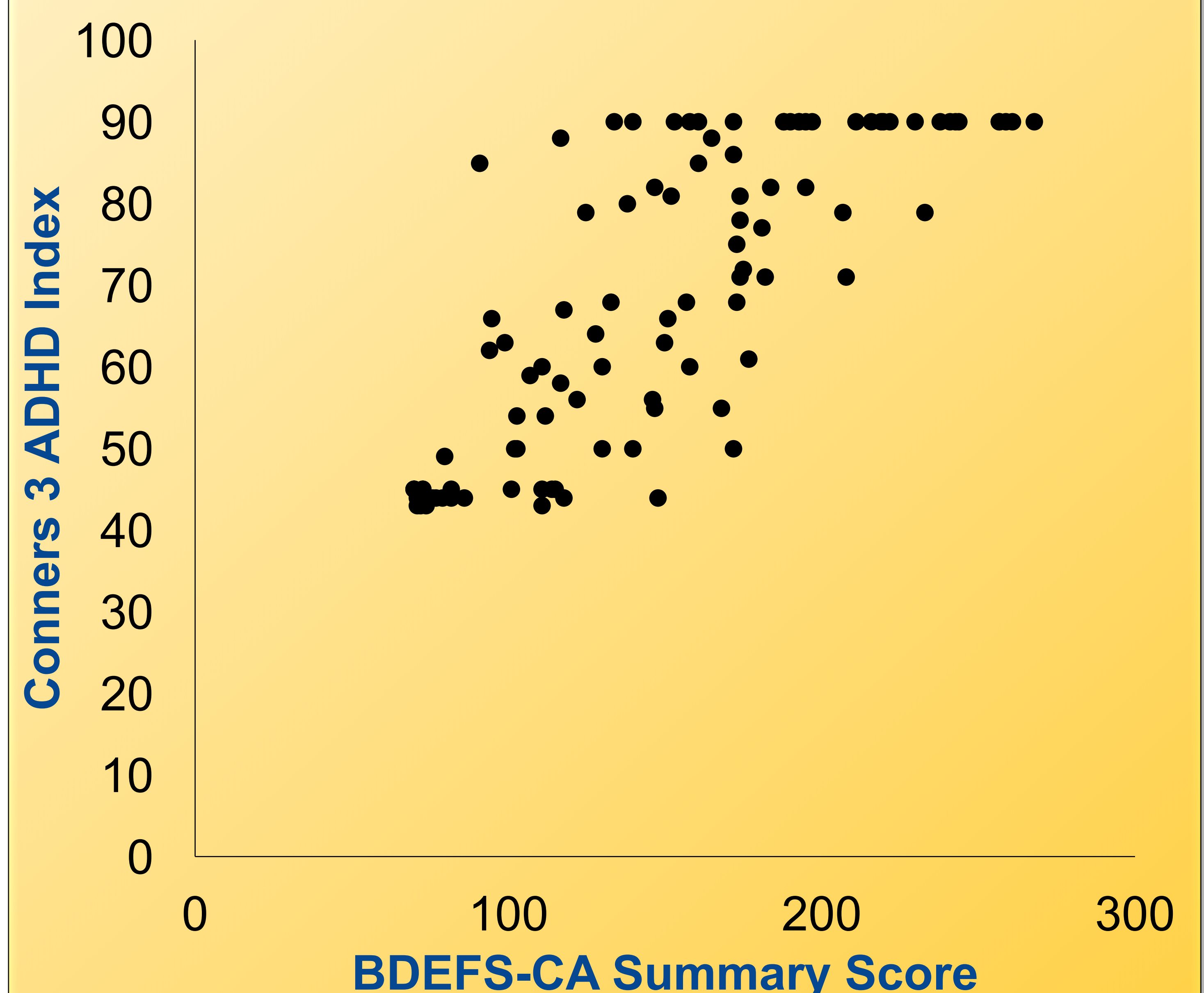
- Participants ($N = 100$) included parents of Canadian children aged 8- to 14-years-old ($M_{\text{age}} = 11.34$, 29% female) recruited from the community as part of a larger study examining fine motor control and ADHD.
- Half of the group met criteria for ADHD.
- Parents completed the BDEFS-CA long form and the Conners 3 parent rating form.
- Pearson's correlation was assessed between Conners 3 ADHD Index and BDEFS-CA scores using SPSS.

Results

- As predicted, the Conners 3 ADHD index showed a significant positive correlation with the BDEFS-CA subscales.
- The Conners 3 ADHD Index was also significantly and positively correlated with the BDEFS-CA summary score.

BDEFS-CA Subscales Correlation with Conners 3 ADHD Index

Self-Management to Time	$r = .78, p < .001$
Self-Organization/Problem Solving	$r = .71, p < .001$
Self-Restraint	$r = .72, p < .001$
Self-Motivation	$r = .78, p < .001$
Self-Regulation of Emotions	$r = .61, p < .001$
BDEFS-CA Summary Score	$r = .80, p < .001$



Discussion & Conclusions

- The summary score and all subscales of the BDEFS-CA were significantly and positively correlated with overall ADHD symptoms as measured by the well-established Conners 3.
- Results support the concurrent validity of the BDEFS-CA.
- In addition, the findings support Barkley's (2015) notion that ADHD is a disorder of executive functioning.

