



Application the method of triads in validation dietary assessment instruments

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Abstract:

Assessment of long-term dietary intake has commonly been associated with significant measurement errors. Measurement error is an important and common source of bias in epidemiological studies, particularly for laboratory test or a questionnaire which is not considered to be as a gold standard. Because of this potential error, it is always important to validate exposure measurements before epidemiological analyses.

Assessment and detection of error is usually achieved through validity and reproducibility studies on a sub-sample of study subjects. In such studies, comparison with a gold standard, correlation coefficients or comparison of the means of the two methods are used. These measures could be inaccurate if the two methods have correlated errors or if one of them has repeated measurements.

An approach to validate is suggested known as the method of triads; using triangulation techniques to evaluate the correlation between three measurements (food frequency questionnaire, reference method and biomarker) and the true intake using validity coefficients.

Therefore, the aim of this review is to describe the “method of triads for validating exposure measurements.

Keyword: dietary assessment; method of triads; validity