



# Music Therapy Assessment Tool for Advanced Huntington's Disease (MATA HD)

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## Background

The continuous and complex decline in people living with Huntington's disease (HD) calls for interventions that can provide support through to the advanced stages.

The literature reports that music therapy (MT) benefits this population by facilitating interaction and emotional expression, however no robust measurement tools exist.

**The aim of this study was to develop a reliable and valid MT clinical monitoring tool.**

## Method

After establishing content validity via staff focus groups, the 15-measure MATA HD was designed (see Figure 1).

MATA HD scores from 19 subjects (15 female) were compared to equivalent items from three established HD tools (Behaviour Observation Scale Huntington, Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire, Unified Huntington's Disease Rating Scale).

Along with the validity testing, inter- and intra-rater reliability testing took place across 10 weekly group sessions.

## Acknowledgements

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Figure 1: MATA HD

Figure 2: Design

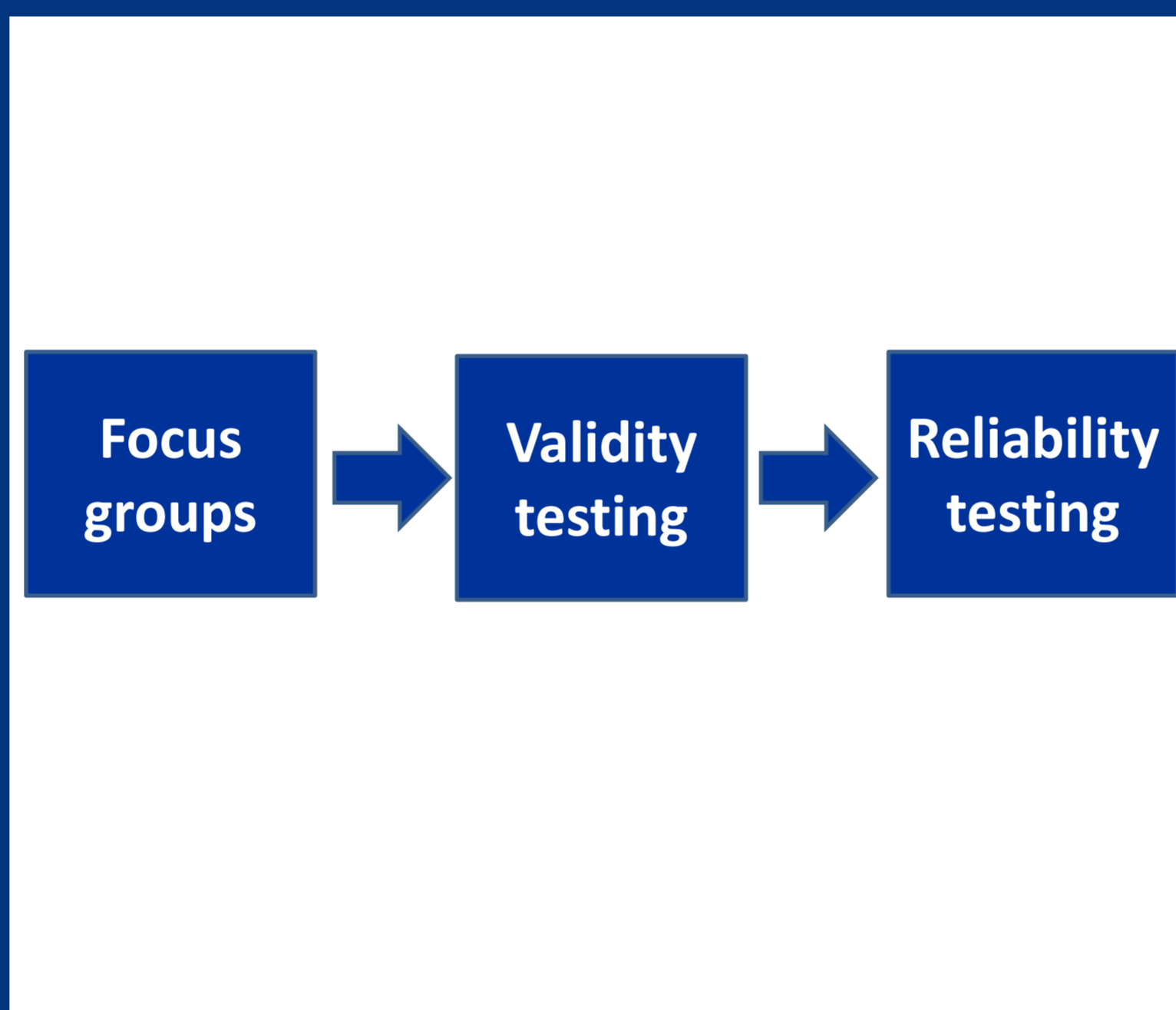
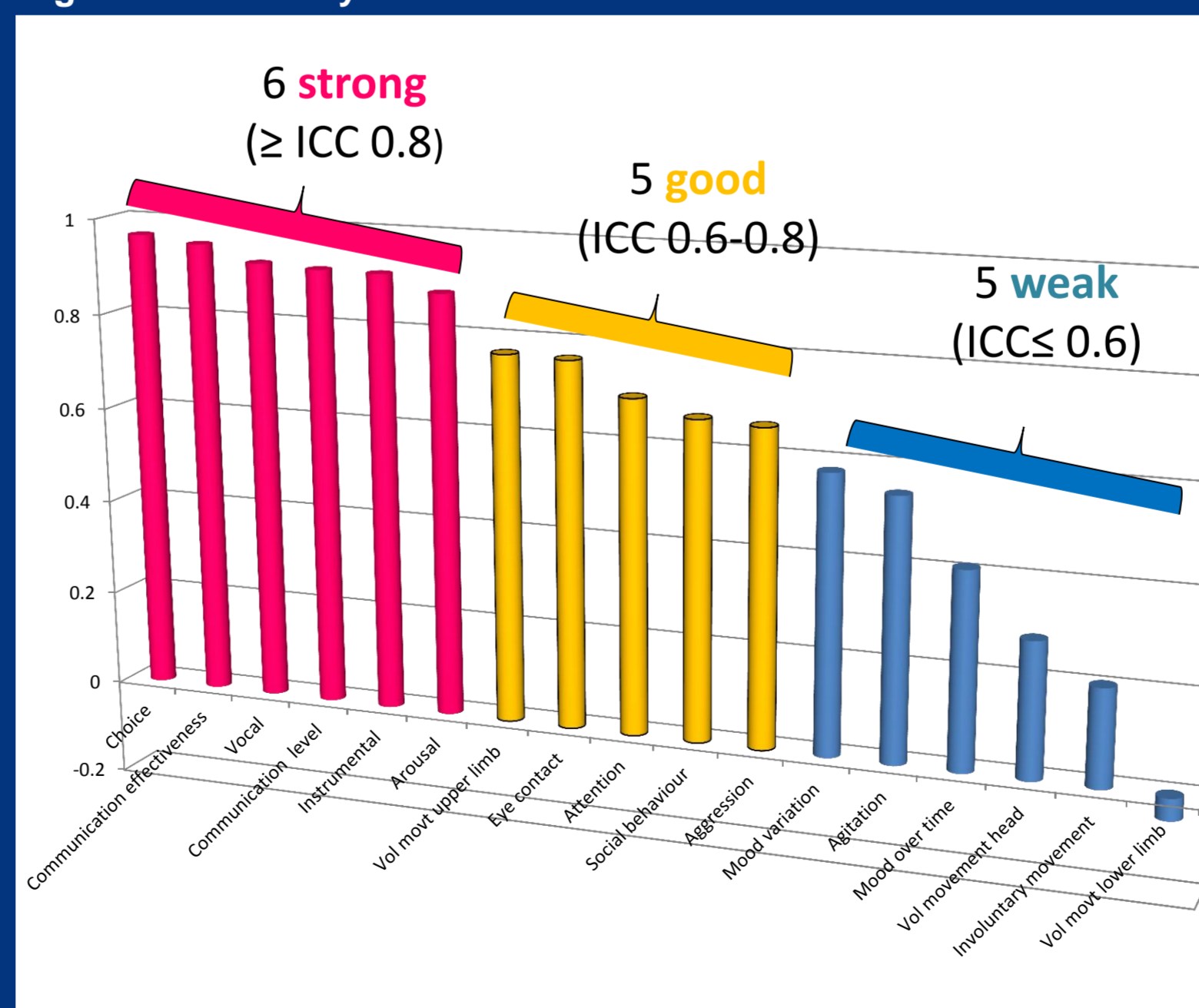


Figure 3 Reliability



## Results

Analysis revealed a Chronbach's  $\alpha$  of 0.825 for 11 MATA HD core measures indicating good internal consistency.

Further analysis demonstrated that the MATA HD is reliable across emotion / mood, communication, cognition, social behaviour, aggression and agitation domains ( $r_s \geq 0.8$  sig 0.05 ).

The average Intraclass Correlation Coefficient scores were 0.66 for inter-rater and 0.68 for intra-rater reliability, comprising a range from very strong to poor scores on individual measures (see figure 3).

## Conclusion

The MATAHD provides a means of measuring the effects of music therapy with advanced Huntington's disease, demonstrating strong internal consistency and validity in 6 domain areas important to clinical work. Issues with the reliability of some of its measures are currently being addressed.