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# **Pilot Testing of Assessment of Capacity for Myoelectric Control (ACMC) in Evaluating Myoelectric Hand Function in Chinese Population**

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## **Research Article**

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## **Abstract**

Upper limb amputations cause marked functional disability and lower the individual's self-body image, with severe psychological implications. Many rehabilitation parameters are involved in the successful rehabilitation of upper limb amputations. The aim of this study was to examine the validity and reliability of the Chinese version of Assessment of Capacity for Myoelectric Control (Chinese-ACMC) in upper limb amputated subjects and with a myo-electric-powered prosthetic hand.

To validate the Chinese version of Assessment of Capacity for Myoelectric Control (Chinese-ACMC) in upper limb amputee subjects (children and adults) with a myo-electric-powered prosthetic hand. A sample of convenience sampling of 22 subjects (11 males, 11 females) with upper limb amputation and myoelectric prosthetic hands were recorded during a regular clinical visit for ACMC. Each subject was evaluated according to four criteria: (a) Upper Limb Amputation including all levels of amputation; (b) No specific pain type – no matter phantom or pain in the stump; (c) With intact cognitive function; (d) Age ranged from 12 to 40 years. With instruction, occupational therapists and prosthetic-orthotics with at least twenty years' clinical experience of myoelectric prosthesis training would conduct the 30-items Chinese ACMC for each subject. A serial of errand tasks of activities of daily living were designed for evaluation. Individuals' ratings were repeated after 4 weeks. Through test-retest reliability, internal consistency testing, factor analysis, intra and inter factor correlation analysis. A four-factor structure, namely, "Gripping", "Holding", "Releasing" and "Coordinating" are identified.

**Keywords:** Functional use; Measurement; Arm Prosthesis; Occupational Therapy

**Abbreviations:** ACMC: Assessment of Capacity for Myoelectric Control; ICC: Intra-Class Correlation Coefficient

## Introduction

Upper-limb amputations are most often the result of sudden trauma to the body, although they also can be caused by malignancy, congenital deficiencies, and vascular disease [1,2]. About 16,000 new upper-limb amputations occur annually, of which only 2,000 are at or above the wrist [3]. A person faced with such a life-altering change will have to make many physical and psychological adjustments to be able to fully participate in everyday life [4-6]. Rehabilitation intervention will vary according to individual needs [3], and phases of treatment may overlap depending on individual's progress [6]. With the professional advices from prosthetic and orthosis, prosthetic options will be discussed with the client when he or she is medically stable. They include prescriptions of a passive prosthesis, a body-powered prosthesis, a myo-electric prosthesis, a hybrid prosthesis, a task-specific prosthesis, or consideration of not prescribing any prosthesis [7]. Many studies conducted over recent decades have looked at the influence of certain factors in the successful use of the upper limb prosthesis. These factors include level of amputation, age, level of education, and training in prosthetic use have all been shown to be factors that influence prosthetic success [4, 6-9].

Myoelectric prostheses had become more universally applicable since early 90s [10]. Many technological advances in prosthetic devices have been made in the recent years [11,12]. Prostheses are available with specialized attachments that allow the person with an amputation to resume or begin participation in activities of daily living, work, athletic activities, and other leisure pursuits [11,13,14]. A proper assessment on the use of myoelectric hand is therefore highly necessary in documenting the rehabilitation progress.

## Assessment of Capacity for Myoelectric Control (ACMC)

The ACMC is scored on the basis of observations of the myoelectric prosthesis user as he or she is performing everyday tasks [15]. Any task, easy or difficult, can be used to evaluate the capacity for control, as long as the task requires active use of both hands (i.e. the unaffected

hand and the prosthetic hand). During the assessment, the subjects are encouraged to accomplish the tasks spontaneously in their usual way (i.e. by using the prosthetic hand as they are used to, as an active assisting hand or as a passive support or stabilizer of objects). The occupational therapist assesses their capacity for control of their myoelectric prosthesis by rating their performances on 30 items representing different aspects of quality of myoelectric control. The 30 items in the ACMC are classified into 4 groups: (i) gripping (12 items), (ii) holding (6 items), (iii) releasing (10 items), and (iv) co-ordinating between hands (2 items). Each person's performance is rated with scores ranging from zero to 3, where 0 means the individual is not capable, 1 means sometimes capable, capacity not established, 2 means/capable on request, and 3 means/the subject is spontaneously capable. Only those items that are observed during the test session are scored.

## Methods

Development of this Chinese version of Assessment of Capacity of Myoelectric Control (Chinese-ACMC) involved several studies using the following methods: systematic literature reviews, field testing, expert panels, inter-rater reliability studies, factor analysis to determine construct validity, longitudinal studies to examine predictive validity and focus group qualitative studies to assess the clinical utility of the tool.

## Procedures

Ten Chinese and Cantonese speaking people of various educational levels ranging from primary to tertiary were recruited to complete a questionnaire to assess the linguistic validity of the Chinese-ACMC. Items in the Chinese-ACMC were modified either in syntactical or structural aspects according to written comments on individual items provided by the respondents.

Five bilingual expert panel members (1 Occupational Therapist, 2 Prosthetic and Orthoist, and 2 Medical Officers) with at least 5years experience in myo-electric powered hand rehabilitation training were invited to form the panel in reviewing the Chinese-ACMC. With the use of a set of standardized questionnaire which was designed to study the adequacy, accuracy and ease of understanding of translation and face and content validity of the Chinese-ACMC. Their professional evaluation for

each item was deconstructed to create a number of questions that could be answered as either yes or no, and to complete the questionnaire.

Each item in the Chinese-ACMC will be examined by this expert panel group. A questionnaire for evaluating the content validity of Chinese-ACMC was designed and sent together with a covering letter and both the original ACMC and the Chinese-ACMC. The professional evaluation for each item was deconstructed to create a number of questions that could be answered by subject, and can indicate their preference out from a visual analog scale.

The drafted items were pre-test with five subjects whom will be not involved in the main study. According to their suggestions the format of some questions may be changed. Convenient sampling of 22 subjects was recruited, all of them were survival from the earthquake in Mainland China. Recruited subjects should be upper limb amputee client, literate but should not have any mental function deficiency. The reviewed Chinese-ACMC were then administrated to subjects again for inter-rater reliability, each subject was verified by two examiners in assessing the same subject in the same situ. Moreover, for the test-retest reliability, each subject was asked to complete the Chinese-ACMC for two times, the interval between the two measures should be within one week. Further analysis on factor analysis, intra and inter factor correlation analysis would be conducted.

The reviewed questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential, data collected will be utilized for further test-retest reliability, internal consistency, factor analysis, intra and inter factor correlation analysis.

## Results

Among these five subjects in assessing the linguistic validity of Chinese-ACMC, three were female and two were male, age ranged from 10-39. The degree of clear presentation and content understandability were presented in a 0 to 10 Likert scale, and a stringent cut-off mean score (~ 80 % agreement) of clear presentation or understandability was set. The mean scores were calculated and score of eight was selected as the cut-off score of a clear presentation and good content understandability. The results were summarized in Table 1. Items with either mean score of clear presentation or understandability below the cut-off score were needed to reviewed again. 7 items (6,10,12,18,19,22 and 29) were refined to increase the degree of clarity, comprehensiveness, and comprehensibility. Items were

minorly refined in semantics. Inter-rater reliability testing using kappa scores (kappa scores = 0.62) indicated appropriate agreement between raters [16].

Item No.	Clear Presentation	Understandability	Relevancy to Concept
1	8.47	8.53	8.90
2	8.38	8.43	8.70
3	8.47	8.53	8.90
4	8.47	8.53	8.67
5	8.02	8.52	8.13
6	* 6.90	* 6.88	8.23
7	8.9	9.88	8.23
8	9	8.85	8.92
9	8.73	8.07	8.83
10	* 7.42	* 7.88	8.70
11	8.3	8.32	8.42
12	* 7.68	* 7.68	8.17
13	8.18	8.15	8.05
14	9	8.85	8.92
15	8.75	8.22	8.43
16	8.35	8.65	8.45
17	8.32	8.13	8.07
18	* 7.68	* 7.68	* 7.10
19	* 7.17	* 7.90	* 7.72
20	8.3	8.32	8.42
21	9.68	8.68	8.17
22	* 7.68	* 7.68	* 7.10
23	9	8.85	8.92
24	8.75	8.22	8.43
25	8.35	8.65	8.45
26	8.32	8.13	8.07
27	9.68	8.68	8.10
28	8.17	8.9	8.72
29	* 7.32	* 7.13	* 7.07
30	8.23	8.34	8.09

Table 1: Mean Scores of Linguistic Validity of the 30 Items of the Chinese version of Assessment of Capacity of Myoelectric Control (Chinese-ACMC).

\*refer back to expert panel to review.

All five panel members completed a questionnaire, which surveyed the accuracy of translation and content validity of the Chinese-ACMC. The panel members were invited to judge whether they agreed that the translation of each item was accurate or not, by choosing "Agree" or "Disagree". Qualitative comments for modification of

translation were also requested if “Disagree” was rated for that item. The level of agreement of the panel members on the translation of items of the Chinese-ACMC was summarized in Table 2. The reasons for the changes could be broadly classified into 6 categories: 1) use of specific terms; 2) use of generic terms; 3) inaccurate translation; 4) simplification of sentence; 5) clarification of meaning; and 6) grammatical reason.

Item No.	Agree	Disagree	% of Agreement
1	4	1	80.0
2	4	1	80.0
3	5	0	100.0
4	5	0	100.0
5	4	1	80.0
6	4	1	80.0
7	4	1	80.0
8	4	1	80.0
9	4	1	80.0
10	4	1	80.0
11	4	1	80.0
12	4	1	80.0
13	4	1	80.0
14	5	0	100.0
15	5	0	100.0
16	4	1	80.0
17	4	1	80.0
18	5	0	100.0
19	5	0	100.0
20	4	1	80.0
21	5	0	100.0
22	4	1	80.0
23	4	1	80.0
24	4	1	80.0
25	4	1	80.0
26	4	1	80.0
27	4	1	80.0
28	4	1	80.0
29	4	1	80.0
30	4	1	80.0

Table 2: Percentage of Agreement of the Translation of the 30 Items of the Chinese -ACMC.

The content relevancy of the Chinese - ACMC was evaluated in terms of whether the items were relevant to the capacity in myoelectric control Table 3. The results showed that all experts considered all items as relevant to the content area. The percentage of agreement ranged from 75% to 100%, and the median scores were ranged

from 4 to 5 in the items. Therefore, the thirty items in the Chinese-ACMC were regarded as good items.

The content representativeness of the Chinese-ACMC was examined in terms of the thirty items as a whole to the measurement of capacity in myoelectric control. The result was summarized in Table 4. The percentage of agreement was 100% and median score was 4, which indicated all experts agreed that these thirty items cover the major constructs and could represent a person's capacity in myoelectric hand control.

Item	% of Agreement			Median
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
1	100	0	0	4.5
2	100	0	0	4.5
3	80	20	0	4
4	100	0	0	4.5
5	100	0	0	4.5
6	100	0	0	4.5
7	80	20	0	4.5
8	80	20	0	4
9	100	0	0	4.5
10	100	0	0	4.5
11	80	20	0	4
12	80	20	0	4.5
13	80	20	0	4
14	100	0	0	5
15	100	0	0	5
16	100	0	0	4.5
17	100	0	0	4
18	80	20	0	4
19	80	20	0	4.5
20	80	20	0	
21	80	0	20	4.5
22	100	0	0	4.5
23	80	20	0	4
24	100	0	0	4.5
25	100	0	0	4.5
26	100	0	0	4.5
27	80	20	0	4.5
28	80	20	0	4
29	100	0	0	4.5
30	80	20	0	4.5

Table 3: Results of Content Relevancy of the Chinese - ACMC.

	% of Agreement			Median
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
Items 1-30	100	0	0	4

Table 4: Results of Content Representativeness of the Chinese-ACMC.

The inter-rater reliability was verified by two examiners in assessing the same subject in situ. The inter-rater reliability coefficient was .91, with an intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC) of .92 (with individual item ICCs ranging from .86 to .95 (95% CI: .88-.95)), and good to excellent internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .92). The Chinese ACMC showed good test-retest reliability, with an intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC) of .93 (with individual item ICCs ranging from .83 to .95 (95% CI: .84-.95)), and good to excellent internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .91).

The highest potential source of error comes from the test-retest intervals. A one-week interval may be short, and carryover effect can occur. In practical, a very good reliability coefficient proves nearly no obvious effect from time interval. This good reliability coefficient implied nearly no obvious effect from time interval, as reflected by the nature of capacity of myoelectric control which will not be changed rapidly with time [17,18].

The factor structure was examined by factor analysis. The result of the Bartlett's test of sphericity was 938.18 ( $p = .04$ ), and the value of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy was .703. These high values supported further application of factor analysis to explore the latent structure of the Chinese ACMC.

Principal component analysis method of factor extraction was used in this study. Table 5 reported the statistics of principal component analysis. In the initial analysis, a total of four factors could be extracted with the eigenvalue greater than 1.00. In terms total variance, four factors accounted for 50.89% variance, which can be considered as a marginally reasonable factor number. Furthermore, the scree plot in Figure 1 showed the curve straightens out at the four factors. Therefore, the fitness of four-factor solution could be justified. In the rotation phase of factor analysis, it was aimed at achieving simpler and theoretically more meaningful factor solutions. Oblimin rotation was employed in further investigating the factor loadings. The result was summarized in Table 6. The four factors were labeled according to the items' nature of construct. Factor 1 was "Gripping"; factor 2 was "Holding"; factor 3 was "Releasing"; and Factor 4 was "Coordinating".

Items	Communality	Factor	Eigenvalue	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	.576	1	4.701	15.670	15.670
2	.434	2	3.841	12.803	28.473
3	.424	3	3.382	11.275	39.748
4	.533	4	3.324	11.082	50.829
5	.521	5	2.573	8.576	59.405
6	.506	6	2.319	7.730	67.135
7	.389	7	1.727	5.758	72.893
8	.373	8	1.601	5.337	78.230
9	.545	9	1.441	4.803	83.033
10	.523	10	1.271	4.237	87.270
11	.392	11	1.121	3.738	91.008
12	.623	12	.863	2.878	93.885
13	.534	13	.697	2.324	96.209
14	.655	14	.512	1.708	97.917
15	.484	15	.250	.833	98.750
16	.762	16	.196	.654	99.404
17	.634	17	.109	.362	99.766
18	.359	18	.070	.234	100.000
19	.648	19	6.610E-16	2.203E-15	100.000
20	.392	20	3.752E-16	1.251E-15	100.000
21	.462	21	2.983E-16	9.942E-16	100.000
22	.466	22	1.291E-16	4.304E-16	100.000

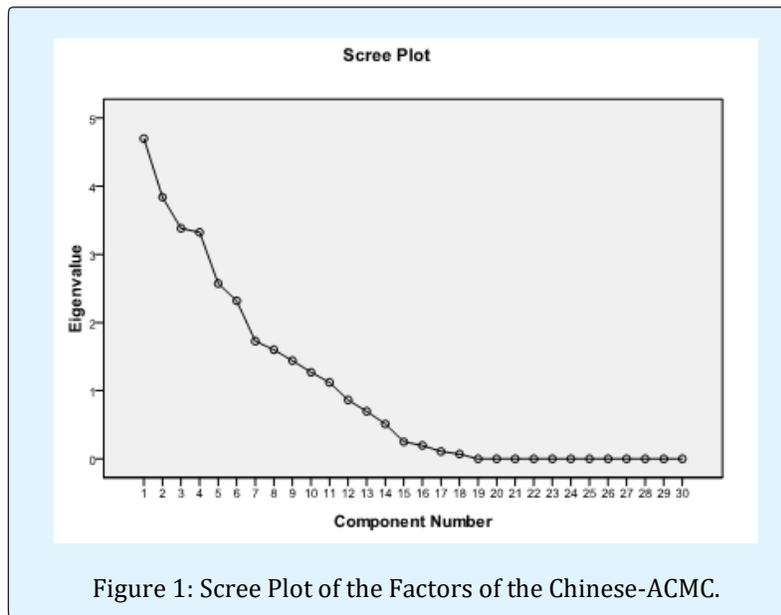
23	.432	23	4.316E-17	1.439E-16	100.000
24	.421	24	-7.176E-17	-2.392E-16	100.000
25	.562	25	-1.369E-16	-4.564E-16	100.000
26	.672	26	-2.164E-16	-7.213E-16	100.000
27	.762	27	-4.328E-16	-1.443E-15	100.000
28	.587	28	-5.528E-16	-1.843E-15	100.000
29	.671	29	-6.834E-16	-2.278E-15	100.000
30	.358	30	-1.003E-15	-3.342E-15	100.000

Table 5: Initial Statistics for Each Factor of Chinese-ACMC.

Bartlett's test of sphericity: 938.18 ( $p=.000$ )

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy: .703

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis



Items	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
1	<b>.908</b>			
6	<b>.828</b>			
10	<b>.815</b>			
11	<b>.697</b>			
12	<b>.642</b>			
7	<b>.628</b>			
9	<b>.61</b>			
8	<b>.586</b>			
2	<b>.579</b>			
3	<b>.567</b>			
5	<b>.531</b>			
4	<b>.529</b>			
13		<b>.783</b>		
18		<b>.783</b>		

14		<b>.709</b>		
15		<b>.655</b>		
17		<b>.634</b>		
16		<b>.515</b>		
19			<b>.789</b>	
21			<b>.695</b>	
23			<b>.595</b>	
26			<b>.535</b>	
27			<b>.525</b>	
20			<b>.515</b>	
22			<b>.513</b>	
25			<b>.512</b>	
24			<b>.495</b>	
28			<b>.465</b>	
30				<b>.665</b>
29				<b>.595</b>

Table 6: Factor Loadings of Items of the Chinese ACMC after Oblimin Rotation.  
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis  
Rotation Method: Oblimin Rotation  
Remark: Only showed factor loadings above .35

The value of factor loadings was the criteria to group the items in different factors respectively. "Gripping" domain included 12 items, i.e. item 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 and 12. "Holding" domain included 6 items, i.e. item 13, 14,15, 16,17 and 18. "Releasing" domain included 10 items, i.e. item 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28. "Coordinating" domain includes 2 items, i.e. item 29 and 30.

The relationships of these four factors were examined in terms of item description, internal consistency and correlation. Cronbach's alpha was used to show the internal consistency of the Chinese-ACMC Table 7. In these four factors, the ranges of item-total correlation were .58 to .79, .46 to .65, .50 to .69 and .48 to .66 respectively as shown in Table 8. They indicated a fair relationship of the items to their respective factors. The internal consistency of the four individual factors and the overall Chinese ACMC were found to be .85, .83, .73, .70 and .69 respectively. The moderate internal consistency implied that the items within each factor and the factors of the Chinese ACMC measured the same construct. Pearson correlation coefficients among the four factors were presented. All the factors were found to have good relationship with one another (ranged from  $r=.56, p=.04$  to  $r=.67, p=.04$ ). The factor 1 "Gripping" and factor 2 "Holding" had the highest relationship ( $r=.87, p=.04$ ). In Table 9, the reliability coefficients of ICC among four factors were .92, .90, .80, .84 which was good and

adequate evidence to substantiate the use of Chinese ACMC across different time.

	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>	<b>Alpha of Chinese Home ACMC if deleted</b>
Factor 1 - Gripping	.85	.43
Factor 2 - Holding	.83	.57
Factor 3 - Releasing	.73	.52
Factor 4 - Coordinating	.70	.52
Overall	.69	

Table 7: Internal consistency of factors in Chinese ACMC.

	<b>Gripping</b>	<b>Holding</b>	<b>Releasing</b>	<b>Coordinating</b>
Gripping	-	$r = .87$ $p < .01$	$r = .58$ $p < .01$	$r = .66$ $p < .01$
Holding		-	$r = .79$ $p < .01$	$r = .70$ $p < .01$
Releasing			-	$r = .66$ $p < .01$
Coordinating				-

Table 8: Correlations among factors in Chinese-ACMC.

	Reliability Coefficient
Factor 1 - Gripping	.92
Factor 2 - Holding	.90
Factor 3 - Releasing	.80
Factor 4 - Coordinating	.80
Overall Chinese ACMC	.84

Table 9: Reliability coefficient of factors in Chinese-ACMC.

## Discussion

The Chinese ACMC provided a structure framework for rehabilitation professionals to note and to follow what would be the essential elements in myoelectric hand rehabilitation. It is very important as a solid guideline [10] can help the rehabilitation professionals in Mainland China to organize and plan their training subsequently [13].

Provided a base for further development on psychometric properties. A four-factors structure consists of gripping, holding, releasing and coordinating are identified. These identified factors in usage as contextual free that Chinese-ACMC can be used to assess different functional tasks with the use of myoelectric hand [19]. Moreover, this type of standardized activities can help the development of service for rehabilitation starter as in Mainland China [13].

Given the normal changes associated with aging, acute illness, and deterioration in chronic diseases can contribute to a decline in individuals' ability to perform the tasks necessary to live independently in the community. With the help of this Chinese-ACMC assessment, healthcare professionals can design proper care plans for individuals in using myoelectric hands [6]. Specific identified deficits and potential assets can assist different healthcare disciplines in vocational rehabilitation planning for them.

The advantages of the Chinese ACMC assessment include the fact that it is based on the method of performance of functional tasks. This may lead to proper estimation of individual's ability. The one-week test-retest interval could be enlarged to two to three weeks in order to alleviate the memory and learning effect. In addition, the Chinese ACMC assessment may not be sensitive to small and subtle incremental changes in function. Further study can address to this gap in order to further enhance the quality of the Chinese ACMC assessment.

## Conclusion

The Chinese ACMC was developed to measure the use of myoelectric hand of an upper limb amputee. The content relevancy and representativeness have been investigated with a high level of agreement. The test-retest reliability was estimated to be good in terms of ICC. The construct validity is analyzed by factor analysis. A four-factor structure is extracted. The factor loading of items is ranged from .51 to .91. The names of these three factors are gripping, holding, releasing and coordinating. A moderate internal consistency is found between items, and the correlations between factors are considerably to be good. A confirmatory factor analysis across different subject groups is recommended in further study to increase the clinical utilities of Chinese ACMC. The evidences of some psychometric properties have been collected, but further research with large sample size on criterion-related validity and improvement of factor stability are recommended.

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