The Client’s Intervention Priorities (CIP)©: A person-centered tool to support goal setting during interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation

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Abstract: Evidence-based neurorehabilitation must be informed by the values, expectations, and goals of individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI). The Client’s Intervention Priorities (CIP)© is a person-centered tool for defining rehabilitation priorities according to self-perceived functioning. The use of the CIP tool is encouraged to promote self-determination and optimal involvement of individuals with ABI in interdisciplinary neurorehabilitation. The objective of this study was to determine the reliability (internal consistency, temporal stability) and content validity (expert agreement) of the CIP tool. Thirty individuals with ABI (66.7% with traumatic brain injury, 33.3% with stroke) with a mean age of 44.8 (SD = 12.6) years were administered the CIP twice at a test-retest interval of 2.3 (SD = 0.7) weeks. An expert panel of 17 neurorehabilitation clinicians and researchers participated in the validation. The CIP tool showed excellent (total score $\alpha = .90$) and good (CIP subscales $\alpha = .83-.87$) internal consistencies, with excellent temporal stability (intraclass correlation coefficients = .78-.90). Experts agreed that the CIP items reflect the Disability Creation Process model (89.4% scored as having high to very high correspondence) and were comprehensibly stated (98% rated as clear to
absolutely clear). The CIP is a valid and reliable self-assessment tool to assist professionals and their clients in developing and prioritizing rehabilitation goals.

Subjects: Neuropsychiatry; Clinical Testing & Assessment; Rehabilitation Medicine; Disability; Neurology; Stroke; Neurological Rehabilitation

Keywords: neurorehabilitation; person-centered; intervention priorities; goal setting; interdisciplinarity; social participation; reliability; validity; acquired brain injury

1. Introduction

It is widely accepted that the lives of individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI) and the lives of their families can be improved independently of the degree of impairment and the presence of different problems (Wilson, Winegardner, van Heugten, & Ownsworth, 2017). When relevant, person-centered, and meaningful goals are identified and put forward, rehabilitation can lead to improved outcomes. Evidence-based neurorehabilitation must encompass the client’s values, expectations, priorities, and goals in the decision-making process because they are key elements for rehabilitation success (Cicerone, 2009). There is a consensus that rehabilitation for ABI should be tailored to the individuals’ cognitive profile, premorbid activities, and life goals (Bayley et al., 2014). As such, focusing on personally meaningful activities increases the successful generalization of the individual’s progress to their environment. Furthermore, rehabilitation involving an interdisciplinary intervention approach to address post-injury physical, cognitive, and psychosocial challenges is crucial for optimal community integration and social participation (Cernich, Kurtz, Mordecai, & Ryan, 2010).

Theory-based research suggests that making decisions about one’s own neurorehabilitation process can be a major motivational factor for active participation in treatment and can contribute to the development of increased autonomy, self-determination, and empowerment (Aujoulat, d’Hoore & Deccache, 2007; Scobie & Wyke, 2009; Siegert & Taylor, 2004). Seminal work in the area of therapeutic outcomes showed that greater involvement in goal setting essentially takes the form of a therapeutic contract that increases the person’s satisfaction and goal attainment (Willer & Miller, 1976). A person-centered approach to neurorehabilitation, especially during outpatient rehabilitation focusing on social and professional reintegration, is encouraged because it empowers the person in their rehabilitation process and gives them increased control over their lives. Self-evaluation of functioning and shared decision-making during goal setting can sometimes represent a challenge for both the person receiving care and rehabilitation professionals (e.g., diverging perceptions of daily functioning and goal attainability) (Murphy & Boa, 2012). It is thus important to develop mechanisms that enable the concerned parties to work together towards defining common achievable and, ideally, ambitious goals (Playford, Siegert, Levac, & Freeman, 2009).

Hence, neurorehabilitation is a relatively long-term collaborative process involving the contribution of different partners in goal setting (e.g., individuals with ABI, professionals of various disciplines, family, friends) (Lexell, Alkhed, & Olsson, 2013). This process must ensure the continual assessment of treatment goals involving the family and/or important others. However, it has been shown that approaches for goal setting and monitoring of goals’ progression show important variations across settings (Evans & Krasny-Pacini, 2017). These variations can be explained by the goal setting process itself, the way in which monitoring is done, and the level of involvement of the client in the process.

An instrument that was developed to assess functioning in daily life is the Assessment of Life-Habits (LIFE-H). LIFE-H, which is based on the Disability Creation Process (DCP) model (Fougeyrollas, 2005a, 2005b), evaluates social participation and documents the extent to which life habits are carried out by people with disabilities, regardless of the type of underlying impairment (Fougeyrollas, Bergeron, Cloutier, Côté, & St-Michel, 1998; Fougeyrollas, Noreau, et al., 1998).
The LIFE-H tool (version 3.0) contains a long (240 items) and a short version (77 items). LIFE-H has been validated in both children (Noreau et al., 2007) and adults (Labbé, 1999; Noreau et al., 2004). While LIFE-H was shown to be a sound measure of social participation, it was not designed to formally guide individuals in determining their rehabilitation priorities and goals. The LIFE-H format (e.g., fairly long sentences, the complexity of scoring on three levels) and length of administration (i.e., 1.5 hours minimum, two separate sessions often needed) are not ideal for self-administration in individuals with ABI.

Other tools have been developed to address goal setting in rehabilitation. Talking Mats is a low-tech communication tool created to allow individuals with communication difficulties to participate in goal setting (Murphy & Boa, 2012). Based on the World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (WHO-ICF), Talking Mats focuses on the individual’s functioning in everyday life. It has been used in adults with aphasia (Murphy, 2000), young adults with intellectual disability (Murphy & Cameron, 2008), and individuals with dementia (Murphy, Gray, van Achterberg, Wyke, & Cox, 2010). Talking Mats focuses on activities and participation to identify goals that are relevant to the person with communication impairments. Despite its use in clinical practice and research, the psychometric properties of Talking Mats and its use in individuals with traumatic brain injuries have not been documented. Also, Talking Mats is mainly used during the acute stage of rehabilitation (Harty, Griesel, & van der Merwe, 2011) and can be time-consuming and difficult for individuals with cognitive problems (Stevens, Beurskens, Köke, & van der Weijden, 2013).

The results of a systematic review on the feasibility of 11 person-specific instruments used in the process of goal setting (e.g., time of administration, instructions, training, costs, perceived usefulness) showed that there was no single good instrument available for all types of clients and settings, and that applying the strengths of each instrument during specific phases could improve goal-setting (Stevens et al., 2013). The Client’s Intervention Priorities (CIP)© tool (Charbonneau et al., 2002) is a step forward in this matter.

The CIP, which is also based on the DCP model, was conceived for defining rehabilitation priorities according to self-perceived functioning during outpatient neurorehabilitation. It was developed by an interdisciplinary team of clinicians (psychologists/neuropsychologists, occupational therapists, special educator, education specialist) from the Traumatic Brain Injury Program at the Lucie-Bruneau Rehabilitation Center in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The CIP is a self-assessment instrument designed to assist individuals with ABI in determining their goals and priorities throughout the rehabilitation process according to their perceived functioning in daily life situations. Through the self-assessment of functioning (Part 1) and self-identification of intervention priorities (Part 2), the CIP is a person-centered tool providing individuals with ABI with the opportunity to take an active and formal role in the design and ongoing evaluation of their rehabilitation process (Charette, Cisneros, McKerral, Léveillé, & Barbeau, 2011; Cisneros, Barbeau, Charette, & McKerral, 2010).

The CIP is a comprehensive tool used to promote participation, increase motivation, develop a treatment plan, evaluate progress, measure outcomes, and foster self-determination, empowerment, and autonomy. As such, the dissemination of this innovative tool is warranted. The CIP tool is currently used in several rehabilitation centers across the province of Quebec, mostly with individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). However, the psychometric properties of the CIP tool have not yet been published. To disseminate the CIP tool and extend research on its psychometric properties, the current study examined: a) the reliability (internal consistency and temporal stability), and b) the content validity (agreement by a panel of experts) of Part 1 of the CIP tool (i.e., self-assessment of life habits: nutrition, fitness, personal care, communication, housing, mobility, responsibilities, interpersonal relationships, community life, education, employment, recreation).
2. Methods

2.1. Participants
Clinical coordinators and rehabilitation professionals in a neurorehabilitation center in Montreal contacted a total of 50 individuals with ABI who were participating in an outpatient multidisciplinary rehabilitation program. They were invited to participate in the study based on the following inclusion criteria: a) individuals having received a diagnosis of ABI; b) two or more months post-injury; c) 18 years or older; and d) reporting to be able to read and speak French. Eight individuals with ABI refused to participate in the study and 12 were excluded either for not meeting the inclusion criteria (n = 4) or attrition at retest (n = 8). The total sample for the current study consisted of 30 individuals with ABI with a mean age of 44.8 (SD = 12.6) years. The majority were men (66.7%). Most participants reported having at least a high school education (46.7% high school, 46.7% college or university). A diagnosis of TBI followed the TBI guidelines put forward by the Quebec Ministry of Health (Government of Quebec, 2005), with participants having a mild (Glasgow Coma Scale—GCS score 13–15), moderate (GCS score 9–12) or severe TBI (GCS score 3–8), as documented in their admission file. TBI was the most prevalent diagnosis (66.7%) followed by stroke (33.3%). The demographic and injury-related characteristics of the sample are reported in Table 1.

2.2. Instruments

2.2.1. The Client’s Intervention Priorities (CIP)© tool
With the CIP tool, individuals are asked to judge their degree of functioning in 41 everyday/life situations corresponding to six categories representing daily activities (21 items: nutrition, fitness, personal care, communication, housing, mobility) and six categories representing social roles (20 items: responsibilities, interpersonal relationships, community life, education, employment, recreation). As shown in Table 2, the number items in each of these 12 categories ranges from two to five. The life situations included in the CIP tool reflect the conceptual framework of the DCP model.

| Variables                        | n (%)       | M (SD)    | Range |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Gender                           |             |           |       |
| Male                             | 20 (66.7)   |           |       |
| Female                           | 10 (33.3)   |           |       |
| Age (years)                      |             | 44.8 (12.6)| 21–68 |
| Education                        |             |           |       |
| High school                      | 14 (46.7)   |           |       |
| College                          | 9 (30)      |           |       |
| University                       | 5 (16.7)    |           |       |
| Missing                          | 2 (6.6)     |           |       |
| Test-retest interval (weeks)     |             | 2.3 (0.7) | 1–4   |
| Time since injury (months)       |             | 11.7 (10.4)| 2–60  |
| Diagnosis                        |             |           |       |
| Mild TBI                         | 7 (23.3)    |           |       |
| Moderate TBI                     | 8 (26.7)    |           |       |
| Severe TBI                       | 2 (6.7)     |           |       |
| Stroke                           | 10 (33.3)   |           |       |
| Musculoskeletal injury with mild TBI |         | 3 (10)    |       |
according to those 12 categories and their corresponding specific life habits. Life habits are “daily activities and social roles that ensure the survival and development of a person in society throughout his or her life” (Fougeyrollas, Bergeron, et al., 1998). The DCP model was developed (in both French and English) in the context of a mandate from the World Health Organization to propose a revision of the concept of handicap as it was conceptualized in the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps. The DCP is widely known and used in Canada (mostly in the province of Quebec) as well as in Europe (Desrosiers, 2005; Levasseur, Desrosiers, & St-Cyr Tribble, 2007). It is a dynamic model that conceptualizes disability or handicap situations as limitations in the accomplishment of life habits and social participation that result from interactions between personal factors (i.e., abilities and impairments/disabilities) and environmental factors (i.e., facilitators and barriers).

Within this framework, an iterative process conducted with the clinicians involved in the development of the CIP instrument led to the formulation and phrasing of the CIP items. The items were worded to inclusively represent examples of most daily activities and social roles that can be accomplished by a person, based on the DCP model categories and their specific life habits definitions. CIP items were reviewed by the clinicians on the tool development team during consecutive work sessions to remove any redundant items and assure that all DCP life habits

| Table 2. CIP tool categories, items by subscale and examples |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| **CIP categories** | **Number of items** | **Examples** |
| Daily activities | | |
| Nutrition | 3 | I eat my meals |
| Fitness | 3 | I take part in physical activities to maintain or improve my physical fitness |
| Personal care | 4 | I use the bathroom |
| Communication | 5 | I can converse with one or more people |
| Housing | 4 | I do household chores |
| Mobility | 2 | I get around inside and outside (e.g., walking, wheelchair) |
| Subtotal | 21 | |
| Social roles | | |
| Responsibilities | 3 | I respect my civic and social responsibilities |
| Interpersonal relationships | 3 | I have emotional bonds (e.g., spouse, family, friends, etc.) |
| Community life | 2 | I am part of groups or organizations (e.g., associations, social clubs, political party) |
| Education | 2 | I take part in academic activities or professional training (e.g., classes, studies, internships, projects, after school activities) |
| Employment | 5 | I have a paying job |
| Recreation | 5 | I participate in artistic, cultural, social or crafts activities (e.g., dance, arts and crafts, music, gardening, etc.) |
| Subtotal | 20 | |
| **Total CIP score** | **41** | |
were covered by the 41 items retained. Clinicians not directly involved in the tool development were also consulted to that effect. The CIP includes statements articulated in the first-person perspective using clear and accessible language to address the different categories of life habits (see examples in Table 2). As such, the statements represent common terms used by individuals with ABI, family members, and rehabilitation professionals. The use of a common and accessible language facilitates communication among professionals, as well as between professionals, individuals with ABI, and their families.

The CIP tool was also specifically designed to suit the challenges of individuals with ABI in the post-acute recovery phase related to cognitive impairment and fatigue, as well as to foster their full involvement and effort during the task. Statements are written in relatively short sentences, in accessible language, and remain visible throughout the sorting exercise, requiring minimal cognitive demands (e.g., reading, attention, working memory). Also, the life habits cards are presented in a random fashion to reduce the probability of perseverative or recurring answers within the different statements for each of the categories of life habits. The CIP tool has an unlimited length of administration to minimize the impact of information processing speed and validity issues associated with fatigue. Clinical practice has shown that the duration of the CIP administration is rarely more than 60 minutes, with the possibility to take breaks when necessary.

Figure 1 shows a flow diagram representing the administration process of the CIP tool. A rehabilitation professional administers the CIP tool in two parts. In the first part, a cardboard header with labels representing the six levels of ability from left to right (“This is not part of my usual life habits”; “I do not do it because of my present condition—somebody else does it for me”; “I cannot do it by myself—I need significant monitoring or I do about 50% alone with important physical or verbal assistance of somebody else”; “I need someone to be there, just in case”; “I do it alone, but with some difficulty”; and “I do it alone, without difficulty”), is placed on the table in front of the individual. The person is then handed a previously shuffled deck of 41 cards with the different statements related to the 12 categories of life habits and is asked to self-assess their functioning according to each card, sorting them into piles in front of the corresponding level of ability label. The cards contain statements formulated in a clear and accessible language (e.g., “I
have a paying job”; “I prepare my meals”; “I read newspapers, magazines, books or on the Internet”). As such, the individual sorts all the cards according to their level of participation by placing each card in front of the heading corresponding to their degree of ability. Because statements for each card are visually displayed and remain visible during the sorting process, the person can clearly identify both life habits and the ability level to rate them. When the sorting process is finished, the person is asked to review their cards and make changes as needed in their classification according to ability levels.

In the meantime, the categorization the client makes for each of the CIP 41 items is recorded by the rehabilitation professional on a scoring sheet according to a 6-point Likert-type response scale (i.e., “0” represents “This is not part of my usual life habits” to “5” indicates “I do it alone, without difficulty”). Mean scores are calculated by including all items scored 1–5 for both daily activities and social roles subscales, as well as a total CIP total score. Items scored “0” are not computed in mean scores since they were not part of the individual’s life habits before the brain injury. Lower scores on the CIP represent lower levels of participation and more frequent handicap situations. Conversely, higher scores of the CIP indicate greater levels of independence, social participation, and integration.

The objective of the second part of the CIP administration is to help the individual to identify their intervention priorities and rehabilitation goals. After removing the cards sorted under the heading “This is not part of my usual life habits” and “I do it alone, without difficulty”, the professional gathers in a pile the cards of the life habits that were placed under the remaining headings (i.e., “I do not do it because of my present condition—somebody else does it for me”; “I cannot do it by myself—I need significant monitoring or I do about 50% alone with important physical or verbal assistance of somebody else”; “I need someone to be there, just in case”; and “I do it alone, but with some difficulty”). At this time, the person is asked to read the remaining cards again and make two separate piles: a) the first pile with life habits that they identify as needing immediate attention in terms of treatment or intervention (i.e., selection of intervention priorities); and b) a second pile with life habits that are important to them, but not a short-term priority. Next, the individual is asked to organize the first pile by preference for intervention (i.e., prioritization process). As such, they rank the life habits that they wish to include as rehabilitation goals for the next few months. The professional then records this information on a form entitled “My priorities” provided with the CIP tool. For each of the first six life habits identified as priorities, the individual with ABI is asked to explain the reasons they see as causing their limitations in these life habits, and potential solutions that they can think of to alleviate these limitations. Finally, the professional asks the person to focus on the cards that were placed under the heading “I do it alone, without difficulty” and to reflect on and raise personal strengths or facilitators based on self-knowledge and their evaluation of their environment that could eventually help them overcome their difficulties and achieve their rehabilitation goals.

At the end of the CIP administration, the individual reviews the “My priorities” CIP form and signs it to confirm that it reflects their chosen intervention priorities. This document serves as a contract aiming to inform the neurorehabilitation process. The person receives a copy of the document and it is shared with other members of the rehabilitation team. The “My priorities” form and the detailed CIP scoring sheet are filed in their medical records. The priorities constitute a basis for discussion, between the individual with ABI, family caregivers, and the rehabilitation team, leading to the definition of interdisciplinary rehabilitation goals that are included in the individualized intervention plan. The CIP tool is then administered at each review of the intervention plan (e.g., every 12 weeks). This ongoing evaluation of goal attainment allows rehabilitation professionals to document the client’s self-perceived progress in accomplishing their life habits and contributes to updating goal setting.
2.3. Procedure
The current study was approved by the Research Ethics Board (REB) of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation of Greater Montreal. Participants gave written informed consent to participate.

2.3.1. Reliability testing
The reliability of an instrument refers to its ability to produce consistent results when the same variables are measured under different conditions (Johnston, Keith, & Hinderer, 1992). To evaluate the reliability of Part 1 of the CIP tool (i.e., self-assessment of life habits), we calculated its internal consistency and temporal stability. The internal consistency, quantified by Cronbach’s alpha (α), evaluates the extent to which the items measuring the same construct are interrelated (Bolton & Parker, 2008). A high alpha value represents items that are closely related. The temporal stability was measured using a test-retest method. The comparison between the participants’ responses at two different time points and the calculation of intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) are an estimate of temporal stability. High ICC values indicate consistency and agreement between quantitative measurements (Dittmar & Gresham, 1997).

To ensure the administration of the CIP was systematic across evaluators, two research assistants were trained by the tool developers on the administration of the CIP. They administered the entire CIP tool (i.e., Parts 1 and 2) twice to individuals with ABI at a test-retest interval of 2.3 (SD = 0.7) weeks. The same research assistant conducted the first and the second administrations for the same participant. The second evaluation was scheduled at the end of the first administration of the CIP tool.

2.3.2. Content validity testing
The validity of an instrument refers to its ability to measure the characteristics for which it was designed and an instrument is considered valid if it actually measures what it claims to measure (Bolton & Parker, 2008; Streiner & Norman, 2003). Content validity, a component of construct validity, is “the degree to which elements of an assessment instrument are relevant to and representative of the targeted construct for a particular assessment purpose” (Haynes, Richard, & Kubany, 1995, p. 238). Content validation provides evidence about the construct validity and can be established with the help of experts during the development process of an instrument. To assess the content validity of the CIP tool, we consulted an expert panel of 17 clinicians and researchers that had been working in the field of neurorehabilitation for at least 10 years (i.e., 13 clinicians—eight of which had part-time or full-time clinical coordination/program management responsibilities—including five occupational therapists, four physical therapists, three psychologists/neuropsychologists, and a speech-language pathologist; as well as four researchers, with respective backgrounds in neuropsychology, occupational therapy, nursing, and anthropology, including the principal author of the DCP model). Participants in the panel of experts were familiar with the DCP model but not with the CIP tool and completed an online survey using Survey Monkey (Waclawsky, 2012). The panel of experts was presented with the content of the CIP items (i.e., the 41 statements) and life habits taxonomy as defined in the DCP model (Fougeyrollas, Bergeron, et al., 1998). They were asked to rate to what degree each CIP item statement (e.g., Nutrition: “I choose my food according to my eating habits”, “I prepare my meals”, “I eat my meals”) corresponded to its respective life habits description (e.g., Nutrition: “diet”, “meal preparation”, “eating”) and definition in the DCP model, with the following options: a) very poor, b) poor, c) moderate, d) high, or e) very high. Experts were also asked to judge the clarity of the wording of the CIP statements, with the following options: a) not clear at all, b) somewhat clear, c) clear, d) very clear, or e) absolutely clear.

2.4. Statistical analyses
Statistical analyses were conducted with SPSS Statistics for Windows—version 25 (IBM, 2017). Internal consistency was estimated for both the first and second CIP administrations with Cronbach’s alpha (α) for the subscales (i.e., daily activities and social roles), the CIP life habits categories, and the total score. The following criteria were used to interpret alpha values: ≥
.9 = excellent, ≥.8 = good, ≥.7 = acceptable, ≥.6 = questionable, ≥.5 = poor, <.5 = unacceptable (George & Mallery, 2011). Test-retest reliability of the CIP tool was calculated with intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) for each of the 12 categories, the two subscales (i.e., daily activities and social roles), and the total score, using a two-way mixed effects model with measures of absolute agreement. For each ICC value, 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated. The following guidelines were used to interpret ICCs and their CIs: .75 – 1 = excellent, .60-.74 = good, .40-.59 = fair, and < .4 = poor (Cicchetti, 1994). To test content validity, the responses from the panel of experts were analyzed in terms of frequencies.

3. Results

3.1. Reliability
Cronbach alpha coefficients are provided separately for the first (T1) and second (T2) CIP administrations in Table 3. Overall, the CIP tool showed excellent internal consistency at T1 and T2. In addition, the daily activities subscale and the social roles subscale showed good internal consistency at both CIP administrations. For the individual categories, acceptable to excellent internal consistencies were found for four categories at T1 (fitness, personal care, education, recreation), and three categories at T2 (education, employment, recreation). A lower internal consistency was found for the other categories at T1 (mobility, interpersonal relationships) and T2 (nutrition, interpersonal relationships, community life).

Table 4 provides the intraclass correlation coefficients and their 95% confidence interval estimates corresponding to the test-retest values of the CIP categories, subscales, and the total score for the first and second administrations. The CIP tool total score and the two subscales’ scores (daily activities and social roles) showed excellent reliability, as indicated by ICC values. Also, 95% CI limits were in the excellent (daily activities), good to excellent (total score), or fair to excellent
(social roles) range. Nine of the twelve individual categories (i.e., nutrition, fitness, communication, housing, responsibilities, interpersonal relationships, community life, employment, and recreation) showed excellent reliability. Their lower and upper 95% CI limits were in the fair to excellent range. The personal care and mobility categories showed good reliability and the education category had fair reliability, with lower and upper 95% CI limits in the poor to excellent range.

3.2. Content validity

The results of the assessment of the level of correspondence between the CIP items and corresponding DCP life habits descriptions and definitions by the panel of 17 experts are shown in the top panel of Figure 2. Experts evaluated the correspondence between the CIP tool items and the DCP taxonomy as being mostly high or very high. None of the CIP items were rated as having poor or very poor correspondence with the DCP descriptions and definitions. Regarding the clarity of CIP items, experts agreed that almost all CIP items were rated as being clear, very clear or absolutely clear, as illustrated in the bottom panel of Figure 2.

4. Discussion

This paper presents an innovative and promising tool to promote the participation of individuals with ABI in their outpatient rehabilitation process and community reintegration. The CIP is a person-centered instrument allowing individuals with ABI to self-assess their level of functioning and to determine their intervention priorities, based on their preferences and expectations, for their personalized rehabilitation plan. Results show that the CIP tool has solid psychometric properties. According to a group of 17 experimented rehabilitation clinicians and researchers from various disciplines and domains, the CIP tool showed excellent content validity established through the relationship with the life habits descriptions of the DCP model and in terms of clarity of the CIP item statements. In terms of reliability, the total score and both subscales (daily activities and social roles) of the CIP tool showed excellent or good internal consistency at the two testing times, and excellent temporal stability with satisfactory confidence intervals.
The CIP appears to be a valid and reliable measure of self-perceived life habits and participation to formally assist persons with a brain injury and professionals during the process of goal setting, prioritization of treatment objectives, and the monitoring of goal attainment. The preliminary psychometric evidence of the current study supports the use of the CIP tool in neurorehabilitation. However, a few points deserve further discussion. The diversity of activities involved within some of the categories could be reflected in their lower internal consistency or temporal stability. It is important to note that the CIP categories are conceptual in nature and that their items do not necessarily have inherent functional implications (e.g., an individual with ABI may accomplish one item in a category without difficulty but need important assistance on another item in the same category). Alternative explanations can include differences in the interpretation of the items at the two time-points, the fact that the individual with ABI has had the time to reflect on the activities during the two-week administration interval, and actual changes in functioning during the test-retest period. These variations are also possibly inherent to the DCP model and the clinical characteristics of the ABI population. However, they do not affect the overall reliability of the tool’s total score, daily activities, and social roles subscale scores.

Currently, most neurorehabilitation professionals follow a goal-setting approach in partnership with clients and their families to integrate their expectations during treatment planning (Wilson & Gracey, 2009). Accepting that goals can vary depending on the individual means that people with similar types of brain injury can have different rehabilitation goals (Evans & Krasny-Pacini, 2017). The CIP tool allows professionals to individualize treatment plans through a collaborative process. The use of the CIP tool is encouraged in interdisciplinary outpatient neurorehabilitation to promote motivation and full involvement in the rehabilitation and community reintegration process. The repeated administration of the CIP tool can also help to inform individuals with ABI and their families about their progress and assist professionals in monitoring the evolution of the treatment provided.
The CIP tool overcomes the limitations of complex wording of the items and working memory demands (e.g., items and categorization options displayed during the administration), episodic memory problems (e.g., individuals receive a copy of the form with their priorities), executive problems (e.g., guidance through the administration process by a rehabilitation professional), and fatigue associated with long assessments (e.g., relatively short format and flexibility allowing breaks during its administration). This helps individuals with ABI to formulate realistic outpatient rehabilitation goals and to prioritize them. Also, it reduces the complexity of exploration of obstacles, strengths, and possible solutions to achieve realistic therapeutic goals by guiding the individual with ABI through the entire process of self-assessment of functioning, self-exploration, and personal choice. The CIP can represent a powerful tool to enhance the effects of neurorehabilitation since it has been suggested that the setting of carefully identified and personally meaningful goals may represent a practical form of psychotherapy (Wilson, Evans, & Gracey, 2009).

Like other instruments, the CIP tool has some limitations that must be acknowledged. For instance, some individuals with severe ABI and important neuropsychological deficits (e.g., global aphasia, extremely limited self-awareness) can be too impaired to participate effectively in the goal-setting process (Evans & Krasny-Pacini, 2017). In such cases, establishing rehabilitation goals with families and significant others should be pursued in accordance with the person’s pre-injury values, and considering the individual’s best interest. It is important to mention that the CIP tool should not be the only source of information on which decisions about treatment goals are based, particularly in individuals with ABI with reduced self-awareness. The CIP results can be contrasted with other available sources of information (e.g., formal neuropsychological, physical and occupational therapy assessments, behavioral observations, among others) to appreciate differences between the client’s self-perceived functioning, and that perceived by the treating rehabilitation professionals or significant others. As the process of developing self-awareness after brain injury involves recalling experiences and comparing current performance with preinjury levels (i.e., who I was with who I am now) (Ownsworth, 2017), the CIP tool could help clients gain insight about post-ABI changes. This hypothesis needs further investigation in future developments to describe the clinical utility of the CIP tool.

Although the CIP tool is used to guide self-assessment of life habits and to determine barriers and strengths toward the attainment of prioritized goals, the CIP tool does not lead to the formulation of rehabilitation goals by itself. Rehabilitation professionals need to translate, with the participation of the individual with ABI, their priorities into meaningful, challenging, and achievable goals. Doing this using, for example, a SMART approach to goal setting (i.e., Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic and with a Timeframe) can represent an ideal methodology for developing individualized interdisciplinary intervention plans in rehabilitation. Also, the CIP can be used to track progress in terms of self-perceived functioning and goal achievement, but it should be combined with other methods allowing to objectively and systematically quantify levels of expected achievement of rehabilitation goals, such as the Goal Assessment Scaling (GAS) method (Grant & Ponsford, 2014; Malec, 1999).

4.1. Future directions
Even though priorities can change in the short-term, future studies could address the temporal stability of the priorities chosen during the administration of the CIP tool (i.e., the second part of the CIP), as this was not an objective of this study. The priorities chosen in the second part of the CIP tool would be expected to remain relatively stable in a short time period (e.g., two weeks). Although the CIP items are formulated in a clear and accessible language, the few CIP statements judged as having only moderate correspondence with the DCP descriptions could be reviewed to improve the quality of the instrument. Further investigation of the psychometric properties of the CIP is needed. Concurrent and divergent validity need to be examined, as well as the confirmation of the factorial structure of the scale (i.e., daily activities and social roles) with larger samples. Also, studies conducted in samples with lower educational levels could allow verifying if education can affect the validity of the instrument and determine if further adaptation is warranted. Furthermore, the translation and
adaptation to other languages are necessary as the CIP tool is currently only available in French. Cross-cultural validation would also be important to understand whether the life habits represented in the CIP tool and reflecting the DCP model are culturally sensitive. This is important since life habits, their meaning, and expressions may vary between cultures (Pereira, Fish, Malley, & Bateman, 2017). We anticipate that the CIP tool is culturally sensitive as the DCP is based on an anthropological model of handicap. Future research on anosognosia could use the CIP tool to examine the consistency between self-assessment of life habits by the individual with ABI and the evaluation of their functioning in life habits as perceived by a significant other. It would also be interesting to investigate the effect of awareness deficits on rehabilitation priorities of the person with ABI and how they align with those of the family caregiver. Finally, the CIP tool was developed to guide outpatient neurorehabilitation of adults with ABI. Further developments could include the adaptation/validation of the CIP tool to older adults, children, and adolescents with different neurodisabilities.

In conclusion, we presented the internal consistency, temporal stability, and content validity of the CIP, a tool to help define rehabilitation priorities according to self-perceived functioning in individuals with ABI. The preliminary findings documented in this study serve as a basis to further investigate this promising and innovative tool. Neurehabilitation is concerned with the improvement of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral deficits caused by an insult to the brain, and with helping individuals with ABI achieve maximal social participation (Wilson et al., 2017). As such, to guide individuals with ABI in the construction of a life plan that makes sense to them, rehabilitation clinicians and scientists have the responsibility to develop assessment and intervention tools involving the full participation of individuals with ABI, as well as programs and policies that coherently follow those principles.

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