

Certification in the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests Outside the United States: The Colombian Experience

Sharon Cermak¹, Mary-Margaret Windsor², Margarita Gonzalez³, Evia Cuartas-Nieto³, Erna Blanche¹, Margarita Rodriguez³

¹*University of Southern California, Los Angeles, United States*, ²*World Wide Orphan Foundation, New York, United States*, ³*Fundacion Vertice, Bogota, Colombia*

Introduction. The Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT) are considered the gold-standard assessment of sensory processing disorders. A four-course certification process in the SIPT is offered through the University of Southern California- Western Psychological Services (USC-WPS). It is essential to consider its applicability outside the U.S.

Objectives. This presentation describes adaptation of the SIPT certification process in Colombia. Results of a survey of certified therapists to examine participant satisfaction with the certification process, current use of the SIPT, and suggestions for the future are discussed.

Methods

Participants. Course participants were more than 100 occupational therapists from Colombia, Spain, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru who participated in the SIPT certification process in Colombia.

Procedures. Four American USC-WPS instructors conducted SIPT certification courses in Colombia from 2001 to the present. A survey of participant satisfaction and use of the SIPT was conducted in 2009.

Results. Colombia has sponsored four series of 4-course sequences in conjunction with USC-WPS. More than 90% of therapists completed the certification process. With more than 100 SIPT-certified occupational therapists, Colombia has the second-highest number of SIPT certified therapists in the world. Important adaptations included simultaneous lecture interpretation, translations of written materials, and SIPT-Certified occupational therapy Colombian tutors who contributed to a high completion rate and quality assurance.

Conclusions: The SIPT can be adapted for use in other countries/ cultures. Perspectives of course organizers, instructors, and participants are highlighted.

Contributions to the Practice/ Evidence-Base of Occupational Therapy: Evidence-based practice demands use of appropriate assessments. This presentation will help therapists consider what the best assessments are for their country, and identify the strengths and limitations of the USC-WPS certification process for their country.