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## Abstract of the Scientific Literature

**CHILD BEHAVIOR AFTER ANESTHESIA** The objective of this study was to evaluate the validity of a post-hospitalization behavior questionnaire (PHBQ) given to children in Sweden. The relationship between the psychometric properties of the PHBQ and age and gender were also tested. Two- to 13-year-old children who were scheduled for an elective procedure—including anesthesia—were consecutively recruited. Parents of 340 children provided the final sample population. The 5 most consistent factors were: (1) general anxiety-withdrawal; (2) eating disturbances; (3) separation anxiety; (4) regression-aggression; and (5) sleep anxiety. In addition, age was associated with higher PHBQ scores. Children who were 5 years old or younger had significantly higher mean scores than older children. Gender, however, was not significantly related to total PHBQ scores, even

when controlling for age. The authors also conclude that the PHBQ is adequately reliable and should be used for further research. A 5-factor model for the PHBQ, however, would be more appropriate for data from Swedish children. **Comments:** Anesthesia has been found to be associated with changes in children's behavior. The PHBQ is a reliable

and valid tool used to help assess children's post-hospital behavior. More research should be conducted to further validate the instrument and to determine its relationship with different factors. **THB** 

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