A Malaysian Study on the Reliability and Validity of the Health-Related Quality of Life Questionnaire (HRQOL-20) in Urological Patients

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Summary

Main objective of this study is to validate the Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL-20) in the Malaysian population. Reliability and internal consistency were evaluated using the test-retest method and Cronbach's alpha. Responsiveness was expressed as the effect size. Internal consistency was excellent (Cronbach's alpha value = 0.68 to 0.87). Test-retest correlation coefficients and intraclass correlation coefficient were significant (ICC=0.58 and 0.91) as well as the high degree of sensitivity and specificity. The HRQOL-20 is a reliable, valid and sensitive to clinical changes in the Malaysian urological population.

Key Words: Health-Related Quality of Life, Cronbach's alpha, Intraclass correlation coefficient, Internal consistency, Test-retest reliability, Validity

Introduction

Quality of life (QoL) has been described as a sense of well-being, contentment, fulfillment, flourishing or degree of satisfaction with present life circumstances. It is also between the hopes and expectations of an individual and the present experience at a particular stage of time. The improvement of quality of life can be noted either by deficient life dimension or adjustment of the patients' expectations. Measurement of quality of life includes psychological status, physical status, social interaction and economic status. Medical disorder such as Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) has been found to affect one's quality of life. Symptomatic BPH is a highly prevalent disease. BPH is one of the commonest diseases occurring among elderly men which may affect the patient's quality of life. It is well known that lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) can interfere with one's daily activities. Symptoms such as frequency, nocturia, urgency, urge incontinence and dribbling can affect patient's quality of life.

Among the domains of the quality of life reported to be most affected were the physical, mental, social which consists of sleep, anxiety, worry about the disease, mobility, leisure, daily activities, sexual activities and satisfaction with sexual relationship.

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