The ‘Wound-QoL’: A Short Questionnaire Measuring Quality of Life in Patients with Chronic Wounds

Christine Blome¹, Katrin Baade¹, Patricia Price², Eike Sebastian Debus³, Matthias Augustin¹

¹ Institute for Health Services Research in Dermatology and Healthcare (IVDP), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany
² Department of Vascular Medicine, University Heart Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany
³ Cardiff University, UK

BACKGROUND

Chronic wounds can heavily impair the patients' quality of life by causing for example severe pain, social isolation, restricted mobility, and sleeping problems. Evaluation of health related quality of life (HRQoL) has become a standard in wound research and wound care [1]. Three wound-specific HRQoL questionnaires have been developed in, or translated to, German language and are currently being used in treatment evaluation: The Freiburg Quality of Life Assessment for wounds (FLOQA-w) [2] consisting of 9 pages and 30 questions; the Cardiff Wound Impact Schedule (CWIS) [3] with 7 pages and 57 questions; and the Würzburg Wound Score (WWS) [4] with 4 pages and 21 questions. For the CWIS, no global score can be calculated. The WWS, in contrast, provides no treatment evaluation: The

METHODS

165 wound patients completed the 3 questionnaires. Prospective, non-interventional multi-center study on adult patients with chronic wounds under routine care

GROUPING ITEMS BY CONTENT

Items were grouped qualitatively; each group covered equal or similar content.

PSYCHOMETRICAL PROPERTIES OF ITEMS (MISSING VALUES, CONVERGENT VALIDITY...)

Supporting data: % of missing values; Pearson intercorrelation of each pair of items; % of patients who chose top boxes

ITEM SELECTION AND ADAPTATION BY EXPERT PANEL

Selection of items based on patient relevance, non-redundancy, generality, unambiguity, psychometrical properties

DETERMINE SUBSCALES WITH FACTOR ANALYSIS

Explorative principal axes factor analysis. Items were assigned to the factor they loaded highest on to derive subscales.

“VIRTUAL VALIDATION”

Validation using the data of the longitudinal study on items selected for the Wound-QoL.

RESULTS

The Wound-QoL was developed with a 6-step methodology.

The Wound-QoL questionnaire

Quality of life with chronic wounds – “Wound-QoL” questionnaire

In the last seven days...

1. my wound hurt
2. my wound had a bad smell
3. there was a draining discharge from the wound
4. the wound has affected my sleep
5. the treatment of the wound has been a burden
6. the wound has made me unhappy
7. I have felt fluoridated because the wound is taking too long to heal
8. I have worried about my wound
9. I have been afraid of being treated for the wound
10. I have been afraid of needing treatment because of the wound
11. I have thought about dying because of the wound
12. I have been angry about the wound
13. I have been angry at those around me because of the wound
14. I have been as bad as I was before the wound
15. I have been frustrated by the wound
16. I have been sad because of the wound
17. I have been a financial burden to me

The Wound-QoL has been translated into English and is currently under validation in a longitudinal study.

CONCLUSION

The Wound-QoL contains the core content of three established questionnaires but it is much shorter (1 page) and relates explicitly to the wound in each item, thereby measuring disease-specific QoL. Results of virtual validation indicate good reliability and validity.