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Title: **CONTENT VALIDITY OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE FOR PATIENTS WITH WORK-RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS (QOL-WMSD SCALE)**

Topic:

Background. This work is the second part of an in progress research which is supported by the Brazilian Network for Health Technology Assessment (REBRATS) whose the main objective is to develop, validate, and standardize the Quality of Life Scale for Patients with Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders (QoL-WMSD) to the Brazilian context. Methods. We interviewed fourteen patients participating in a support group constituted by individuals with WMSD. Patients were asked to say what quality of life means to them. From these responses, we found the descriptors and dimensions linked to the quality of life construct. The findings of the content analysis were gathered with a systematic literature review by searching a wide range of medical and psychological journals. Descriptors and dimensions pertaining to other quality of life measures were also investigated with the goal of finding specific and general characteristics that could contribute to developing the QoL-WMSD Scale. Findings. The set of 72 descriptors was organized into 4 dimensions: 1) Physical Aspects, which include the sub dimensions Mobility and Locomotion, Pain and Discomfort, and Independence; 2) Occupational Aspects, that involve the sub dimensions Chance of Disability, Financial Difficulties, and Stability and Security; 3) Psychological Aspects; and 4) Social Aspects, which include the sub dimensions Leisure and Social Support. An additional sub-scale was developed to evaluate general aspects of quality of life that were potentially affected by the specific WMSD. Conclusions. From these dimensions, the items will be investigated in a five-point Likert scale distributed in two sub-scales. The first sub-scale will explore the intensity of some aspects of quality of life before acquiring a work-related musculoskeletal disorder, and the second sub-scale will ask for these aspects during the WMSD. Dimensions, descriptors and items of the QoL-WMSD Scale will be presented as a result of the content validity process.

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