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Validation of the Persian version of Skindex-16 among older patients with skin diseases

Tahereh Mahdavi nejad¹, Fatemeh Mohammadi², Ozkan Gorgulu³, Seyedeh Ameneh Motalebi^{2*}  and Zahra Hosseinkhani⁴

Abstract

Background: Skin conditions often considerably impact the older patients' psycho-social health and quality of life (QoL). The present study was aimed to examine the validity and reliability of the Persian version of Skindex-16 among older people with skin diseases.

Methods: In this validation study, 260 older patients suffering from a range of skin conditions were recruited from a dermatology clinic in Rasht, Iran. Data were collected using a checklist for demographic and clinical characteristics and the Skindex-16 questionnaire. In this study, validity (face, content, and construct) and reliability (Cronbach's alpha) of the Skindex-16 were assessed and reported.

Results: The mean age of participants was 64.51 ± 5.04 years. The results of confirmatory factor analysis showed that the model had acceptable fitness into the expected three-factor structure [$\chi^2 / df = 249.363, P < 0.001; GFI = 0.961; TLI = 0.952; RMSEA = 0.078$ (90% CI = 0.06, 0.09) and SRMR = 0.06]. The reliability analysis results confirmed that the values of Cronbach's alpha coefficient for Skindex-16 were in the acceptable range (0.923).

Conclusions: Our evaluation of the Skindex-16 indicates that it is reliable and a valid instrument that can be used for measuring QoL for Iranian dermatologic patients.

Keywords: Aging, Health-related quality of life, Skindex-16, Validation

Introduction

Aging is associated with a decline in physiological functions, functional capacity, and the onset of many diseases [1]. Like other biological systems, the skin, which provides a large body interface with the environment, grows, matures, and ages throughout life [2]. With advancing age, the prevalence of some skin disorders increases [3]. Skin aging is accompanied by a decrease in the functional capacity that increases the vulnerability to cutaneous

problems and the subsequent development of dermatoses such as xerosis, pruritus, and eczema, and skin cancers [4]. The most common skin disorders in older adults consisted of dermatitis, fungal infections, pruritus, benign and malignant tumors [2]. In a review study of 4099 elderly patients, five common skin diseases were eczema dermatitis (20.4%), fungal infections (15.8%), pruritus (11.5%), and bacterial (7.3%) and viral (6.7%) infections, respectively [5]. In Iran, Morowatisharifabad et al. [6] reported that the most frequent skin problem among older people was dry skin (30.25%) followed by skin pruritus (9.5%), and flaking of the skin (8.25%). Malekzad et al. (2007) [7] also found that 267 out of 456 institutionalized older adults in Iran (58.6%) suffered from at least

*Correspondence: ammotalebi@yahoo.com

² Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Research Institute for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

