MEDICATION CHOICE AND ASSOCIATED HEALTH-CARE OUTCOMES AND COSTS AMONG PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS IN TAIWAN

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OBJECTIVES: Psoriasis has a major impact on patients’ quality of life, as commonly measured by the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI). This study has two objectives: 1) to measure health-related utilities for patients with psoriasis and to measure the willingness-to-pay (WTP) for a cure for psoriasis, and 2) to examine how these different measures of utilities and WTP are related to DLQI.

METHODS: Face-to-face patient interviews were carried out with 364 patients with psoriasis during August 2009 and February 2010 at dermatology outpatient clinics in five hospitals located in northern, central and southern Taiwan. Utilities were elicited using time trade-off (TTO), visual analogue scale (VAS) and EQ-SD. The EQ-SD was scored based on the standard scoring formula. The WTP for a cure of psoriasis was elicited by double-bounded dichotomous choice questions followed by a bidding game question.

RESULTS: The mean age was 44.5 years, mean length of disease was 11.2 years, and 77% of patients were male. The mean health utility was 0.87 (EQ-5D), 0.72 (VAS) and 0.75 (TTO). The WTP per month was between NT$7770.72 and NT$9411.30. Scores of EQ-SD and VAS were significantly negatively correlated to all of the dimensions of DLQI. The correlation of the dichotomous WTP with DLQI was also strong and in the expected direction. TTO was also significantly correlated with DLQI, but the relation was the weakest.

CONCLUSIONS: EQ-SD, VAS and WTP are consistent measures with DLQI in assessing the well-being of patients with psoriasis in Taiwan.

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LINGUISTIC VALIDATION OF THE NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE—QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE-42 (NEI-QOL-42) FOR PATIENTS WITH REFRACTIVE ERROR MODIFIED FOR SIMPLIFIED CHINESE IN MAINLAND CHINA AND HINDI IN INDIA

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OBJECTIVES: The NEI-QOL-42 developed by RAND Corporation in US English is a reliable and valid 42-item measure of the impact of refractive status on patients’ day-to-day life. No Simplified Chinese or Hindi versions existed previously. For an international study, the NEI-QOL-42 had to be translated and linguistically validated in Simplified Chinese for China and Hindi for India. METHODS: A standardized linguistic validation methodology was conducted by specialists for each target country: 1) concept definition; 2) dual forward translations by independent native-speaking linguists; 3) reconceptualization of the forward translations; 4) back translation into English by a native speaking linguist; 5) resolution of the translation; 6) international harmonization; 7) clinician review of the translation; 8) cognitive debriefing interviews on five Mandarin/Simplified Chinese and five Hindi native-speaking patients who are either pre- or post-cataract surgery; and 9) final proofreading.

RESULTS: The main challenge on the conceptual level was the English original made extensive use of driving scenarios during the day and night in the US English source instrument to elicit responses. For Hindi and Simplified Chinese, driving scenarios were supplemented with walking and cycling, which were more relevant in the local context without compromising the conceptual intent of the source instrument. On the linguistic level, translating some of the frequency terms required discussion with the developer to identify a solution, as the gradation between the surrounding English response options was difficult to exactly match on a conceptual level in the target language due to linguistic limitations. CONCLUSIONS: According to the rigorous methodology used, with some minor adaptations, the Mandarin and Hindi versions of the NEI-QOL-42 were qualitatively conceptually equivalent and culturally relevant. The Simplified Chinese and Hindi versions were successfully linguistically validated to measurement of the impact of refractive error on patients’ day-to-day lives and facilitate the comparison and pooling of data.