THE SELF-INJECTION ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE® (SIAQ®): DEVELOPMENT AND CONTENT VALIDATION
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OBJECTIVES: The objective was to develop the Self-Injection Assessment Questionnaire® (SIAQ® Version 1) as a comprehensive instrument for use across diseases to assess the perceived advantages of self-injection (SI) and the potential limitations of SI—specifically, psychological, social or physical limitations.
METHODS: The SIAQ® was developed following four steps: 1) in-depth face-to-face interviews involving focus groups with rheumatoid arthritis or Crohn’s disease (two conditions characterised by different symptoms and physical limitations); 2) qualitative analysis and development of a conceptual model to illustrate the domains relevant to patients; 3) questionnaire item generation in US English using patients’ verbatim; and 4) cognitive debriefing interviews to evaluate content validity.
RESULTS: Perceived advantages of SI were: convenient treatment scheduling, feeling in control of the disease, few side-effects and high efficacy of the medication. In addition, some patients expressed psychological limitations (fear of needles, fear of pain, fear of self-injecting, lack of self-confidence in performing injections properly), physical limitations (device handling problems), social limitations (embarrassment ‘to use needles’), and storage problems. Thirty-three items were generated and tested during cognitive debriefing interviews. The final questionnaire (SIAQ® Version 1) is composed of 23 items grouped into six domains, which assess psychological limitations about injections in general; psychological limitations about SI in particular; physical limitations about pain and skin reactions; physical limitations about the usability of the SI device; convenience and satisfaction with SI; and willingness to continue SI. CONCLUSION: The SIAQ® can be used to assess the perceived advantages of SI (convenience and satisfaction) and the potential limitations of SI—specifically, psychological (fear of injections), social (acceptability) or physical aspects (usability and injection-site reactions such as pain) and willingness to continue SI in the future. The psychometric properties of the SIAQ® will be evaluated in clinical studies.

UTILITy INDEX CALCULATION: SIMULATION STUDY CONSIDERING THE HEALTH STATUS AFTER AN INTERVENTION
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OBJECTIVES: Utility index are a basic tool to calculate the “Quality Adjusted Life Years-QALYs” and the derived value of cost per QALY. At present there are some models used to calculate these measures from preference studies. Some of them, as it is the EQ-5D, include a dummy variable which could enlarge the utility index value when score in all its dimensions are the best possible. So, validity of those tools may be affected. The aim of present study is to analyze the validity of Spanish version of the EQ-5D as an assessment instrument of preferences.
METHODS: Various simulations were carried out with different samples which had the same mean value in the EQ-5D tariff, but different percentage of subjects who achieved the best score (1 point) after an intervention. It was understood that the intervention produced an improvement of 1 point in one of the EQ-5D dimensions, and that benefit was present in all subjects.
RESULTS: Different samples obtained different values in the EQ-5D after intervention depending on the percentage of subjects who achieved the best value in all the EQ-5D dimensions. Maximum differences were of 0.15 points, which is a value higher than that considered clinically relevant for the EQ-5D. CONCLUSION: An improvement in an utility index associated to an intervention could depend on the characteristics of the studied sample and this do not seem adequate or desirable. Although an intervention is equally effective in various samples, the results are not the same and this could be a serious handicap for the utility index. Other methods to calculate utility index values must be developed in order to better evaluate the changes associated to an intervention.

VALIDATION OF THE CAT-HEALTH SYSTEM: THE FIRST COMPUTER-ADAPTIVE TESTING SYSTEM IN SPAIN FOR EVALUATING THE HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF ILL OR HEALTHY GENERAL POPULATION SUBJECTS
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OBJECTIVES: A new Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT-Health) for evaluating the generic Health-Related Quality of Life-HRQoL was recently developed in our country. The purpose of the present work was to validate the CAT-Health in a sample of