We have applied an interval regression model to ensure that the results take into account the uncertainty of the data. Further we have employed latent variable models to identify subgroups of respondents within the dataset. A reference group can then be identified, rather than excluding respondents according to arbitrary decision rules. RESULTS: A latent variable approach was found to accommodate heterogeneity better than the dependent cohort survival method during the median (which might otherwise be expected to fulfill a similar role). Interval regression (both log-normalized and otherwise) appears to have only had a small impact on the subsequently derived quality of life in each health state, though it may be considered a more accurate result. The log-normalized interval regression approach also reduced the effect of extreme WTD scores. CONCLUSIONS: We have explored alternative statistical techniques for tackling some of the challenges associated with TTO data. The use of two simple regression models linked to the 'Psychosocial Impact' variable seemingly may be the most accurate reflection of population preferences. Techniques such as interval regression and latent variable models should be further investigated in future.

PRM173
DEVELOPMENT OF A DISCRETE CHOICE EXPERIMENT TO ASSESS PATIENTS’ AND CARERS’ PREFERENCES FOR HOME ENTRAL NUTRITION

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OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study is to develop and exhibit a discrete choice experiment according to the conjoint-analysis systematic development procedures that would allow for the assessment of patients’ and professionals preferences for the different components of home enteral nutrition (HEN) via tube feeding, and the concordance of answers between patients and their caregivers in Spain. METHODS: Different attributes and levels were extracted from the published literature and presented to two large groups formed by patients receiving HEN (n=5) and HEN experts (n=6). Both groups were asked to identify which attributes and levels were relevant when choosing a HEN product, according to their personal or professional experience. In addition, the focal group was specifically interested in the usefulness if the draft set were to be used for placing a product in a tender. The attributes and levels will be validated for the patient’s preferred product. CONCLUSIONS: The psychometric properties are key to ensure that the survey will be acceptable for both patients and professionals. The study is ongoing to validate the final HEN characteristic of importance for patients and professionals that later on will produce each scenario utility values.

PRM174
MEASURING THE IMPACT OF SECONDARY PROGRESSIVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: SPAIN VS THE AUSTRIAN TRIAL: EQATING THE MS-29, MS-12, ABILHAND-56 AND SF-36

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OBJECTIVES: ASCEND is a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial assessing whether natalizumab slows disability progression in SPMS. The objective of this study was to carry out an empirical post-hoc analysis of ASCEND blinded baseline data to equate items from the Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale (MSWS-12), Multiple Sclerosis Impact Scale (MSIS-29), ABILHAND-56, and Short-Form 36 (SF-36) in order to provide a clearer understanding of the relationship between their respective items on “Physical” and “Psychosocial” impact measurement continua. METHODS: MSWS-12, MSIS-29, ABILHAND-56, and SF-36 data from 889 patients were combined based on a predefined conceptual framework (contrasting broad domains of physical and psychosocial impact). Rasch Measurement Theory (RMT) analyses were performed on the equating item banks using RUMM2020 software to examine: scale-to-scale targeting, item fit, local dependency, and reliability. RESULTS: The ‘Physical Impact’ item bank showed adequate scale performance except for some reversed thresholds (5 of 92) and mis-fit (5 of 92 fit residuals; 20 of 92 Chi-square). Relative item locations implied that, in general, lower levels were randomly distributed throughout the measurement continuum followed by upper limb related items; general limitations items tended to sit in the middle of the measurement continuum. The ‘Psychosocial Impact’ item bank performed much better with few misfit (7 of 15 fit residuals; 2 of 15 Chi-square). Relative item locations implied that ‘worries’ and ‘anxieties’ are at the less impacted end of the continuum followed by ‘mood’ and ‘depression’ items. These findings are consistent with clinical expectation. CONCLUSIONS: Psychometrically meaningful differences in the impact of SPMS of 10 points in the SF-36 domains have been shown to be relevant. This approach has the potential to identify subgroups of respondents within the dataset. A reference group can then be identified, rather than excluding respondents according to arbitrary decision rules. RESULTS: A latent variable approach was found to accommodate heterogeneity better than the dependent cohort survival method during the median (which might otherwise be expected to fulfill a similar role). Int...