Reliability and validity of the Quality of Life Systemic Inventory for Children (QLSI-C): Preliminary result of a modular assessment tool of quality of life using e-Health technologies

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INTRODUCTION

Use of generic versus specific tools in psychological assessment is a controversial issue.

• Generic instruments can be used to measure QOL for numerous chronic illnesses; however, they may not be sensitive to some problems unique to particular diseases (Guyatt & Jaeschke, 1990; Tian-hui, Lu, & Michael, 2005);

• Disease-specific measures are more specific and sensitive but they cannot be used to compare results across diseases or conditions (Guyatt & Jaeschke, 1990; Tian-hui, Lu, & Michael, 2005).

The QLSI-C (Etienne, Dupuis, Spitz, Lemetayer & Missotten, 2011) is a quality of life assessment tool for children aged 8 to 12 years that uses a modular approach developed to overcome these shortcomings. Thus, the generic scale is accompanied by disease-specific modules.

• The theoretical model underlying the QLSI-C is based on this notion of discrepancy and the Aristotelian notion of happiness. In this model, all human activities are oriented towards an end (a goal); that certain ends are subordinated to others but that the ultimate end is the pursuit of happiness (Dupuis et al., 2000). Thus, concepts of goals or expectations are core elements of the QLSI-C. No previous child-focused tool has included these notions (Etienne et al., 2011).

METHOD

OBJECTIVE

Purpose of this study is to report on reliability and validity of the QLSI-C generic scale and the cystic fibrosis (CF)-specific module.

20 children with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and 20 healthy children (ages 8-12 years) matched by age (M=10.5; SD=1.40) and sex (70% male).

Descriptive statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QLSI-C STATE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>α</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Pearson r</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>ICC</th>
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<td>2.74</td>
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<td>138</td>
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<td>2.74</td>
<td>.91</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>.360</td>
<td>.111</td>
<td>.918</td>
<td>.70</td>
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<th>N</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>α</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
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DISCUSSION

• Analyses support the internal consistency reliability of the QLSI-C with the CF-specific module.

• QLSI-C differentiated QOL in healthy children as a group in comparison to children with CF as a group.

• Intercorrelations with scores of generic and CF-specific scales demonstrated medium to large effect supporting the validity of the QLSI-C.

To date, three specific modules are available for the QLSI-C: (1) cancer; (2) asthma; (3) cystic fibrosis. Originality of this tool is strengthened by use of e-Health technologies (i.e., iPad app for administering the QLSI-C). Satisfactory psychometric properties and state-of-the-art use of technology suggests that the QLSI-C has potential utility for use in clinical trials, research, and clinical practice.

REFERENCES


