

Translation, cultural adaptation and validation of the SinoNasal Outcome Test (SNOT)-22 to FRENCH for the evaluation of the quality of life among rhinological patients.

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Abstract

Introduction and aim: In recent years, there has been an ever-increasing demand for clinicians to demonstrate their efficacy. The 22-item Sino-Nasal Outcome Test (SNOT-22) is a fully validated and easy-to-use outcome measure in rhinology. Our goal was to translate and validate a French version of the SNOT-22 and to test its clinical application in a cohort of 402 French-speaking subjects.

Materials and methods: The SNOT-22 was first translated by 3 independent French native-speakers, and then re-converted into English by 3 independent English native-speakers. Five experienced rhinologists compared the translations to each other and a group of 12 patients were subjected to different alternatives to select the most appropriate translation of each

item. After translation, we conducted a prospective study on 356 patients and 46 healthy volunteers. To evaluate the translated questionnaire, the reproducibility, known group differences, responsiveness to treatment and validity were analysed. Scores were compared to visual analogue scale, nasal obstruction symptoms evaluation (NOSE) score and Lund-Mackay score.

Results: The test-retest reliability coefficient was 0.76, indicating a good reliability when administering the instrument on two different occasions. Our SNOT-22 was able to detect differences between rhinological patients and control subjects ($p<0.0001$). Our SNOT-22 improved significantly after nose and sinus surgery ($p<0.0001$), indicating a good responsiveness. There was a relative correlation between SNOT-22 and visual analogue scale and NOSE score, but no correlation with Lund-Mackay score.

Conclusions: The SNOT-22 is a reliable and valid tool to assess quality of life in French-speaking patients and correlates well with known indices of disease severity.