

The feasibility, reliability and validity of the McGill Quality of Life Questionnaire-Cardiff Short Form (MQOL-CSF) in palliative care population

Abstract

In terminally-ill patients, effective measurement of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) needs to be done while imposing minimal burden. In an attempt to ensure that routine HRQoL assessment is simple but capable of eliciting adequate information, the McGill Quality of Life Questionnaire-Cardiff Short Form (MQOL-CSF: 8 items) was developed from its original version, the McGill Quality of Life Questionnaire (MQOL: 17 items). Psychometric properties of the MQOL-CSF were then tested in palliative care patients consisting of 55 out-patients, 48 hospice patients and 86 in-patients. The MQOL-CSF had little respondent burden (mean completion time=3.3 min) and was evaluated as 'very clear' or 'clear' (98.2%), comprehensive (74.5%) and acceptable (96.4%). The internal consistency reliability was moderate to high (Cronbach's alpha=0.462-0.858) and test-retest reliability (Spearman's $r(s)$) ranged from 0.512-0.861. Correlation was moderate to strong (0.478-0.725) between items in the short form and their analogous domains in the MQOL. Most MQOL-CSF items showed strong associations with their own domain ($r(s) \geq 0.40$). Scores from MQOL-CSF significantly differentiated between patients with differing haemoglobin levels ($p < 0.05$). Construct validity was overall supported by principal component analysis. It is concluded that the MQOL-CSF is a feasible tool with favourable psychometric properties for routine HRQoL assessment in the palliative care population.