

Linguistic and content validation of the Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) translated and culturally adapted to the Italian setting

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Objectives

We aimed to test linguistic validity, i.e. perceived comprehensibility and difficulty, and content validity (relevance) of the Italian version of the PG-SGA in patients and a multidisciplinary sample of healthcare professionals.

Introduction

The Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) is an instrument to assess malnutrition and risk factors. The Boxes Weight, Intake, Symptoms and Activities/Function are to be completed by the patient, and the Worksheets by the professional. We translated and culturally adapted the original PG-SGA for the Italian setting, according to ISPOR Principles.

Methods

- Linguistic validity of the Italian PG-SGA was assessed in 120 Italian cancer patients, and linguistic and content validity were assessed in 81 Italian professionals (41 dietitians, 20 physicians, 18 medical students, 1 physiotherapist, 1 physiotherapy student).
- Comprehensibility, difficulty and content validity were operationalized by calculating item and scale indices.
- Scale indices 0.80-0.90 were considered acceptable, and indices ≥ 0.90 were considered excellent.

Figure 1. Italian version of the PG-SGA

Results

- Patients perceived comprehensibility and difficulty of the Boxes as excellent (S-CI=0.98, S-DI=0.96).
- Professionals perceived comprehensibility of the Worksheets as excellent (S-CI=0.92), difficulty as acceptable (S-DI=0.85), and content validity of the full PG-SGA as excellent (S-CVI=0.92).
- Dietitians gave higher scores on comprehensibility, difficulty and content validity of Worksheet 4 (physical exam) than the other professions.
- In Worksheet 4, the temples, clavicles, shoulders, interosseous muscles, scapula, and orbital fat pads were considered most difficult to evaluate.

Conclusion

Translation and cultural adaptation of the PG-SGA resulted in an Italian version that maintained its original purpose and meaning, and can be completed adequately by patients and professionals.

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