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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	CONSTRUCTING THE GENITO-URINARY SURGERY TREATMENT SATISFACTION (GUSTS) SCALE

AIMS OF STUDY: Patient satisfaction is an important outcome of health interventions. A difficulty is its validity and reliability: no continence studies have used a valid instrument. This study aimed at the construction of a psychometrically valid and reliable instrument.

METHODS: A literature review was undertaken of patient satisfaction in continence studies and in health care generally. Concurrently, from the CLAIM (Colposuspension, Laparoscopic versus Abdominal Incision Multicentre) trial (Melbourne, Australia) ten randomly selected women participated in a focus group. The review and focus group results were pooled and used to construct an item bank, which was presented to 45 CLAIM women. Item characteristics, iterative principal component, exploratory factor, and reliability analyses were used to construct the GUSTS. Validation was through comparison with the Urogenital Distress Inventory (UDI) [1,2], the Incontinence Impact Questionnaire (IIQ) [1,2], the SF-36 [3], the Assessment of Quality of Life (AQoL) index [4] and the Patient Satisfaction Scale (PSS) [5], a general patient satisfaction measure.

RESULTS: Constructs from the literature and focus group were adverse effects and pre-existing conditions, care received, pain and discomfort, satisfaction with outcome, current health status and living, and expectations. An item bank (22 items) was delivered to participants; the participation rate was 60% (45 women).

The GUSTS instrument comprises a second-order latent variable (satisfaction) represented by two first-order latent variables (S1: outcome satisfaction and S2: care satisfaction), each measured through four manifest variables. The S2 variables are operation satisfaction, operation effect, continued difficulties and disappointment (covering both positive and negative concerns). The S2 variables are hospital care, doctor/nurse behaviours, results explanations, and prior information (covering information and treatment). The psychometric properties of S1 were that all four items loaded on a single factor explaining 84% of the variance, scores were spread over 94% of the scale range (SR), and Cronbach $\alpha=0.93$. For S2 all four items loaded on a single factor explaining 59% of the variance, SR=88%, $\alpha=0.76$. When combined into GUSTS, all items loaded on the principal component >0.30 , SR=84%, $\alpha=0.83$.

Correlations between the GUSTS and the UDI were 0.67, and 0.66 and 0.41 for S1 and S2. For the IIQ they were 0.67, 0.68 and 0.38. For the SF-36 Physical summary scale they were 0.32, 0.24 and 0.30, while for the SF-36 Mental summary scale they were 0.43, 0.54 and 0.11 respectively. Turning to the AQoL, the correlations were 0.28, 0.23 and 0.21 respectively. For the PPS the correlations were 0.51, 0.59 and 0.18.