

EPAQ-PF VERSUS QUEENSLAND – THE IRISH PERSPECTIVE.Introduction:

It is well recognised that urogynaecological symptoms can have a significant impact on patient quality of life. Many questionnaires have been developed to capture this effect. Our hospital incorporated a patient electronic quality of life questionnaire into our outpatient care plan in a University Hospital in Ireland.

Hypothesis / aims of study

The aim of this study was to compare the electronic personal assessment pelvic floor questionnaire (ePAQ-PF) to the paper-based Queensland pelvic floor questionnaire. These measure quality of life impact in the same four domains, urinary, bowel, vaginal and sexual. The QQ-10 was used as a comparative measure of the value and burden of use of these questionnaires.

Study design, materials and methods

Forty eight (48) women attending a Urogynaecology clinic in Cork were asked to fill in the questionnaires as part of their routine care. Women were selected based on symptomatology as identified from their GP referral letters and sent a Queensland questionnaire and QQ-10 to complete at home. On arrival at the clinic, they completed ePAQ-PF and a second QQ-10. The ten areas of the QQ-10 were analysed and compared accordingly.

Results

The mean age of the women was 59.1 years with a range 33-88 years. Both questionnaires scored equally for communication, relevance, ease of use and willingness to repeat. However ePAQ-PF scored higher in terms of enjoyableness (60.4% vs. 50%). When the inclusiveness of the questionnaires was analysed ePAQ-PF scored higher (100% vs. 89.6%). Despite its' comprehensiveness ePAQ-PF was shown to cause more upset to women compared to the Queensland (22.9%vs 8.3%).

Concluding message

Our study found women felt the ePAQ-PF was more valuable in terms of quantifying the impact of their symptoms on quality of life whereas the Queensland was less burdensome to complete.

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	none
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	Yes
<i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i>	Cork Research Ethics Committee
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes