

BACKGROUND

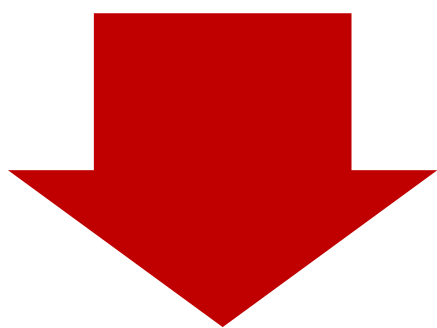
- Spinal cord injury (SCI) patients have a high prevalence of neurogenic **bowel** dysfunction
- There is no comprehensive survey to assess the degree to which neurogenic **bowel** dysfunction impacts SCI patients’ quality of life
- Sought to validate the IBS-QOL survey in SCI population by assessing its content and face validity

Methodology



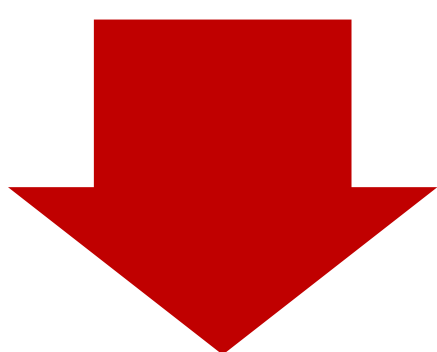
Patient Interviews

- 7 English and 5 Spanish speaking patients with chronic SCI were enrolled
- Semi-structured one-on-one interviews were held
- Participants were asked to review the IBS-QOL survey relating to comprehensiveness and relevance to SCI patients
- Patients were also inquired about ease of understanding the survey



Expert Interviews

- Six experts ( 5 physicians and 1 nurse practitioner) who work mainly with SCI patients were recruited
  - One-on-one semi-structured interviews were held regarding the relevance of each questionnaire item to SCI patients



Analysis

- All interviews were held via telecommunication
- All interviews were recorded and transcribed with participant consent
- Interviews were transcribed to extrapolate common themes

RESULTS

Validity Questions

1. Were there any grammatical mistakes?
2. Are all the words in the questionnaire spelled correctly?
3. Do the questions make sense?
4. Was the questionnaire easy to read?
5. Were the instructions on how to complete the questionnaire adequate?
6. Was the questionnaire easy to understand?
7. Does the description of the questionnaire tell you whether we are testing for QOL changes in SCI patients with bowel symptoms?

- 12 patients, 7 English-speaking and 5 Spanish- speaking were recruited
- 6 experts, 5 physicians and 1 nurse practitioner was recruited
- Item-level analysis of expert responses showed that for 97% (33/34) of questions, at least 4/6, agreed that questions were relevant for the construct and population of interest.

Common Themes

- Patients expressed that detailed assessment of bowel-QOL as part of their routine care was of great interest
- Some experts highlighted body image items that were less frequently encountered in their practice, suggesting that such items were more appropriate for IBS patients

*“All of the questions include real issues that I face on a daily basis” – Patient*

CONCLUSIONS

- We demonstrated the content and face validity of IBS-QOL for assessment of **bowel**-related QOL in SCI
- This measure provides a comprehensive understanding into domain-specific understanding of **bowel**-related QOL following SCI

Future Directions:

- Further studies will focus on assessing the reliability of this measure
- Longitudinal changes can be utilized to assess its ability to capture meaningful changes in quality of life in response to bowel rehabilitation

QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

Recently accepted for publication.

