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Face and content validity plus psychometric properties of a symptom diary for patients with urinary tract infection in primary care

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Background & Aim: Studies investigating urinary tract infection (UTI) often include patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs). However, we have not been able to identify if any of those measures have high content validity and adequate psychometric properties in a Danish context. Therefore, the aim of this study was to test existing PROMs qualitatively for content relevance and content coverage and if a new measure was developed, to validate such a condition-specific PROM for adults with UTI in primary care using Rasch models.

Method: Content validity (content relevance and content coverage) was ensured by: 1) defining key domains 2) literature search for symptoms in previous studies, 3) single and group interviews with patients who had experienced having UTI. The PROM was used in two ongoing research projects and data collected in these studies were used to psychometrically validate the new PROM primarily using the partial credit Rasch model for polytomous items.

Results: Test of content validity resulted in a new PROM encompassing three domains; one for symptom severity containing 18 items, one for symptom bothersomeness containing 18 items and one for impact on daily activities with seven items: all items with the response categories 0 (no), 1 (yes, a little), 2 (yes, some) and 3 (yes, a lot). Results of the Rasch analyses will be presented at the conference.

Conclusions: The test of content validity resulted in a substantially different PROM compared to existing PROMs for patients with UTI. Before using PROMs, one has to ensure the content validity in the target population.