Abstract

In recent years the emphasis on client-centred health service has increased. People have different outlooks on life and consider different things to be aspects of their quality of life. A stoma formation can affect people’s quality of life and therefore, assessment tools have been used to assist health care workers gain insight into their clients’ well-being and main areas of concern. Foreign, translated assessment tools are oftentimes administered in Iceland. Evidence show that characteristics of assessment tools can change when translated and applied in different cultural settings. Findings of such assessment tools can lead to false assumptions being drawn and thus incorrect perceptions of clients’ experience. As a result, pre-testing is important to ascertain the validity and reliability of assessment tools before they are applied in clinical settings.

The researchers translated and pre-tested Stoma-QOL, an assessment tool designed especially for ostomates to assess their quality of life. The aim of this research was to establish the validity and reliability of the researchers’ translation of Stoma-QOL, in an Icelandic setting. Three research questions guided the study:

1. Do the questions of the Stoma-QOL questionnaire pertain to participants’ concerns?
2. Does the majority of participants understand alike the main concepts of the Icelandic translation of the Stoma-QOL questionnaire?
3. Is the researchers’ translation of the Stoma-QOL questionnaire reliable, and is the reliability comparable to the original version?

The questionnaire was administered twice to nine participants in Eyjafjarðarsveit, who were individuals with either colostomy or ileostomy. They had been ostomates for approximately one to 40 years and were between the ages of 30 to 90 years old. Spearman’s
correlation coefficient was found to be 0.954. Internal consistency was calculated according to Cronbach’s alpha as 0.969 in the prior administration and 0.909 in the latter. The distribution of answers indicated that two questions did not refer to the participants’ concerns, and could therefore distort the findings of the assessment tool. To evaluate the participants’ understanding of the questions, interviews were conducted according to the research method Cognitive Interviewing. Their answers revealed shortcomings of the assessment tool.

The results indicated that the assessment tool, in its Icelandic translation, was highly reliable, and the reliability being comparable to its original version. Notwithstanding, the questionnaire cannot be considered valid in its current state and the researchers recommend that wording and form will be reviewed before administered in Iceland.

Key Words: Ostomy, quality of life, Stoma-QOL, pilot study, Cognitive Interviewing.