Translation and evaluation of the EORTC Quality of Life -Spiritual Well Being (QLQ-SWB32) questionnaire in Greek-a pilot study

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Abstract
Aim: To report on the process of the translation of the EORTC QLQ-SWB32 questionnaire from English into the Greek language.

Method: The procedure was based on the exact instructions given by the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC). More specifically, two translations of the English version of the questionnaire into Greek were created. Subsequently, a combined translation was issued by a third person on the basis of the optimal formulation of the two initial translations. Eventually, the combined Greek version was again translated into English. After the translations were completed, a comprehensive report was sent back to the EORTC listing all the steps that were followed. After the report was reviewed by the organization and all issues were resolved, the translation was sent to an external EORTC correction for final approval. Finally, a linguistic validation of the translation with Greek patients was performed and the Greek version of questionnaire was agreed upon. A pilot study of the Greek version of the QLQ-SWB32 questionnaire was performed on a group of 10 patients who received palliative care, randomly selected, independent of sex, religious beliefs and perceptions.

Results: After giving informed consent, the patients were asked to answer the questions and then comment on their ability to understand what was being discussed. All ten patients replied that the questionnaire was easy to understand and answer. They responded negatively as to whether any of the questions led to emotional/spiritual upset. The majority of the sample (six out of ten) commented that they felt better after responding to the questionnaire and the remaining four patients did not report any change in their feelings. The duration of completion of the questionnaire ranged from 20 to 25 minutes. No changes were deemed necessary to the translated instrument. After all comments were disclosed, the EORTC was updated and the translation was finalized.

Conclusions: According to this pilot study the Greek translation of the QLQ-SWB32 questionnaire appeared to be understandable by patients, easy to complete, and generated a positive feeling in most patients who used it. A study on the translated instruments’ validity and reliability is in progress in order to promote research on spiritual practices of patients with cancer in both Cyprus and Greece where research is limited. As such, this questionnaire and future studies, are expected to highlight the necessity to integrate spiritual care into the holistic treatment of patients with cancer.