Measuring the quality of life of people with dementia in nursing homes in Germany using the example of QUALIDEM

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Introduction
Quality of life (Qol) is a major outcome in intervention studies in dementia research. Available measurements are heterogeneous in relation to their operationalization of Qol, their feasibility, psychometric properties, stage of dementia in which the application of the measurement is possible. The measurement QUALIDEM is recommended for the Qol assessment in institutional longterm care and to assess Qol longitudinally. For this QUALIDEM consists of two consecutive versions. Qol among people with mild to severe dementia is assessed using the 37 item-version (9 subscales) and very severe dementia with the 18 item version (6 subscales).

Project Aims
The objectives of the Qol-DEM project are the Investigation of the reliability and validity of the QUALIDEM in Germany and a meta-synthesis of relevant Qol domains from the perspective of people with dementia which result in a model of dementia-specific Qol.

Methods
This study is divided in three methodological phases. The aim of the first...
synthesis of qualitative studies. The selection of adequate strategies for the evaluation of the construct validity of the QUALIDEM will be based on this model. The second empirical phase consists of the three steps: (a) an investigation of the scalability and internal consistency based on a sample of 634 people with dementia, (b) an evaluation of the inter-rater (n = 161) and intra-rater reliability (n = 159), and (c) based on the results of the theoretical phase a cross-sectional investigation of the construct and criterion validity of the QUALIDEM. In the third phase, the QUALIDEM will be adapted, if necessary.

For more information have a look on Dichter et al. 2013

Results

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