Measuring the quality of life of people with dementia in nursing homes in Germany – Study Conception of the Qol-Dem project

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1. Background

• Quality of life (Qol) has become a major concept as outcome in intervention studies1, 2.
• Numerous standardised Qol instruments are available, but only few are suitable for people with dementia (PWD)3.
• QUALIDEM is a standardised Qol-measurement for PWD, which focuses on psycho-social domains of Qol4.
• QUALIDEM consists of two versions: a) 37-item version for the assessment of the Qol in mild to severe dementia (9 subscales) b) 18-item version for the assessment of the Qol in very severe dementia (6 subscales)4.
• In 2008 QUALIDEM was translated into German and then piloted for its psychometric properties5.
• Standards to verify the validity of Qol instruments do not exist.

2. Objective

• Psychometric evaluation of the German QUALIDEM.
• Development of a dementia-specific Qol-model as framework for the development, adaption and validation of Qol instruments.

Research questions:
1. Which domains of Qol are described as relevant from the perspective of PWD?
2. How is the scalability and internal consistency of the German QUALIDEM?
3. How is the interrater and intrarater reliability of the German QUALIDEM?
4. How is the validity of the German QUALIDEM?

3. Methodological Steps

1. Theoretical phase

Step 1: Development of an empirical based dementia specific model of Qol
Step 2: Selection of adequate strategies for the validation of the QUALIDEM

2. Empirical Phase

Step 1: Evaluation of the scalability & internal consistency of the QUALIDEM
Step 2: Evaluation of the interrater & intrarater reliability of the QUALIDEM
Step 3: Evaluation of the validity of the QUALIDEM

3. Final phase

Summarizing results and adaption of the QUALIDEM

Figure 1: Flow of the Qol-Dem project

4. Study progress

• For the meta-synthesis 8 papers comprise the perspectives of 308 PWD on their Qol were identified. Further results will be presented during this conference. A publication is in preparation.
• Mokken’s scalability analysis showed 7 of the original (mild to severe dementia) and 3 of the predefined 6 subscales (very severe) as scalable and internal consistent.

5. Conclusion

• The results will contribute to the theoretical development of the concept of Qol of PWD (theoretical phase).
• The results will deliver an accurate statement of the psychometric properties of the German QUALIDEM.
• The study provides an important basis for the further development of the instrument.

References