

Validation of the Overactive Bladder Symptom Score (OABSS) in Chinese

Introduction: Overactive bladder (OAB) is a prevalent disease that may affect up to 16% of the population. Barriers to health care exist in the Chinese patient population due to language and cultural differences. Our aim was to create a validated Overactive Bladder Symptom Score (OABSS) in Chinese which could capture the full range of OAB symptoms, quantify OAB severity, and be administered over the phone in the wake of the telehealth surge during COVID-19.

Methods: The English version of the OABSS was translated into simplified and traditional Chinese. The 5th question in the survey served as a proxy for OAB status. A volunteer, proficient in Chinese, called patients on two different occasions which were separated by no more than 14 days. Internal validity was calculated using Cronbach's coefficient alpha. Test-retest reliability was measured using Spearman's correlation. T-test was used to assess discriminant validity between groups and between visits.

Results: A total of 56 patients were included in this preliminary analysis of an ongoing project. 26% of patients had OAB. An acceptable degree of internal validity was appreciated by the Cronbach's alpha score of 0.76 on both visits.

There was strong associations between responses from visit 1 to visit 2. Spearman's coefficients ranged from 0.62 to 0.92, with all 7 questions and total OAB score showing statistically significant associations ($p < 0.001$).

No significant differences in total OAB score were seen between visit 1 and visit 2 in both OAB and non-OAB group. However, the OAB group had significantly higher mean OAB scores in both visits 1 and 2 compared to the non-OAB group.

Discussion: Through several methods of determining survey validity, the Chinese version of the OABSS proved to be a useful tool in assessing OAB severity and gives providers an opportunity to assess Chinese speaking patients remotely. As telehealth visits increase in frequency, OAB symptoms can continue to be monitored adequately.