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Word count (250)

Title:

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) for Patients undergoing Treatment for Varicose Veins: Systematic Review and Psychometric analysis.

Objective

To assess the psychometric (or measurement) properties of PROMs for patients with varicose veins (VVs).

Methods

Based on pre-specified criteria, a systematic review was undertaken to identify studies that reported the psychometric(or measurement) properties of generic and disease specific PROMs in a well-defined population of patients with VVs. Literature searches were conducted in databases including MEDLINE, up to June 2016. Study selection, data extraction and methodological assessment of studies were completed by two reviewers. A checklist based on the Oxford system and the consensus-based standards for the selection of health status measurement instruments (COSMIN) was used to assess reported psychometric data. **Results**

In total, 3,787 records were identified. Three PROMs, the AVVQ, VVSymQ (condition-specific; reported in 4 studies and 1 study, respectively) and SF-36 (generic; reported in 2 studies) were included in the review. The AVVQ showed strong content, construct and criterion validity; good internal consistency (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.72$) and a reasonable test retest reliability (intra-class correlation coefficient = 0.59). While the VVSymQ displayed good responsiveness and acceptability rates, the SF-36 was considered to have satisfactory responsiveness and internal consistency (Cronbach $\alpha = 0.80$). Other psychometric properties were not evaluated because these were not reported.

Conclusions

PROMs are an important measure of surgical outcomes in patients undergoing treatment for VVs. The AVVQ seems to be a psychometrically robust(?valid) disease-specific tool in this patient population.