
Abstract
HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE WA HIV COHORT: 2008

Herrmann S¹, Duracinsky M², Lalanne C³, Acquadro C⁴, Mallal S¹,⁵,⁶, Nolan D ¹,⁵.

Centre for Clinical Immunology & Biomedical Statistics, Royal Perth Hospital & Murdoch University, Western Australia, Australia ¹
Service de Médecine Interne et de Maladies Infectieuses, Hôpital Universitaire de Bicêtre, Paris, France;²
INSERM U669, Paris, France; ³Département de la Recherche Clinique, Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris, France;³
Department of Clinical Immunology & Immunogenetics & PathWest Laboratory Medicine Western Australia, Australia;⁵
School of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, University of Western Australia. Australia ⁶

Quality of life (QOL) is an important outcome of HIV treatment and a priority in the management of HIV. A new Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO) questionnaire to measure the QOL in people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) from different cultures and language groups has been developed. The instrument, PROQOL-HIV, has undergone psychometric validation in 791 individuals from 8 countries including 99 people from the WA HIV Cohort Study.

Patients attending the Royal Perth Hospital Immunology Outpatient Clinic completed a four part survey. Three QOL instruments: (1) the MOS-HIV, (2) EQ-5D and (3) the initial seventy-item PROQOL-HIV; and a symptom questionnaire. Self reported missed doses, demographic and biomedical data were recorded. The QOL score from the PROQOL-HIV was expressed on a 0-100 point scale with higher values indicating better QOL. The psychometric assessment reduced the Q to 39 items.

Data were from 99 participants (m= 87%), 13% treatment naive. Mean age/yr (± SD) was 46.1 ± 11.2; median time since diagnosis = 8 years; 92 (93%) were classified at CDC stage A. Correlation of PROQOL-HIV responses with the MOS-HIV, Mental Health State and Physical Health State components, and EQ-5D showed: MOS-HIV (MHS, r=0.814) and (PHS, r= 0.667); EQ-5D (r= 0.482). WA participants reported more depression compared with other countries (26% vs 10%, p<0.001); better adherence (0 or 1 missed dose, 94% vs 51%, p<0.001) and drinking more than 2 alcoholic beverages/day (p=0.02). The experience of stigma and intimacy were among the subscales most impacted, though to a lesser extent compared with Senegal or China. Mean QOL was 64.6 ±19.5 points, did not differ from other ‘western’ countries (p=0.02) but was better than Cambodians and Chinese. The average QOL score diminished in people: living alone= -8.6, with depressive disorders= -11; and reporting more than 5 symptoms= -26 points.

The data demonstrates the validity and utility of the PROQOL-HIV to measure QOL in this population. High adherence rates are encouraging and the implications of a high frequency of depression and alcohol use concerning. The information is a useful adjunct to national surveys and can be used to inform HIV services in this State.