

Cough-Specific Quality of Life Questionnaires

Four fully validated Cough-Specific Quality of Life questionnaires to assist health care professionals during their clinical care and research



Category

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A cough can be very distressing and have a significant effect on many children and their families.

As young children are unable to verbally express themselves adequately, it is standard practice for parents to be proxy assessors of their young child's medical condition. Also, parents/carers are themselves affected by their child's medical condition and thus the parents' own quality of life ("QoL") is relevant. Thus, QoL measures used in paediatrics concern the parents/carers themselves.

The use of QoL tools are considered essential for high quality clinical research and intervention. These tools help healthcare professionals reliably measure and evaluate the efficacy of their intervention. Unfortunately, there were no valid and reliable measures available to paediatricians - until now.

Researchers from the University of Queensland in collaboration with healthcare professionals have developed four validated cough-specific -quality of life ("QoL") questionnaires to assist health care professionals during their research and clinical care of children affected by cough and their parents/caregivers.

1. PC-QoL-27: the Parent-Cough Quality of Life questionnaire (27 items)

A reliable and valid outcome measure that assesses QoL related to childhood cough, based on parent questionnaire responses, at a given time point and measures changes in cough-specific QoL over time.

The PC-QoL is a 27-item questionnaire designed to assess the level of frequency of parents' feelings (15 items) and worry (12 items) related to their child's cough. It uses a 7-point Likert-type scale, with higher scores reflecting lower frequency and fewer worry concerns (ie, greater QoL).

2. PC-QoL-8: the Parent-Cough Quality of Life questionnaire (8 items)

Although many QOL instruments, including the PC-QoL-27, have proved useful for a variety of clinical and research purposes, they are often believed to be too long by both clinicians for inclusion in their interventions and by parents juggling the many demands on their time.

The brief PC-QoL-8 questionnaire is a valid, reliable, and responsive tool that balances the number of items against the comprehensiveness of the content and the statistical parameters of the scale

3. PAC-QoL: the Parent-proxy Children's Acute Cough-specific QoL questionnaire (16 items)

The 16 item PAC-QoL has been specifically validated for use by parents of children with acute cough.

4. CC-QoL: the Child Chronic Cough-Specific Quality of Life questionnaire (16 items)

The validated child chronic cough-specific QoL (CC-QoL) questionnaire is designed to assess the impact on older children and adolescents aged 7-17 years old of their chronic cough across multiple dimensions of well-being.

The questionnaires are the first fully validated children's cough-specific quality of life questionnaires designed for paediatricians and parents of children with chronic and acute cough. They also align with the World Health Organisation domains of psychological, physical and social functioning.

Not only are the questionnaires reliable and valid, but they are also sensitive to change over time. This means that they measure the impact of the child's cough on parents' and caregivers' wellbeing and daily life while also mirroring the changes in the cough severity.

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