

REVIEW

Health-related quality-of-life instruments for Alzheimer's disease and mixed dementia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Over the last 20 years, a number of instruments developed for the assessment of health-related quality of life (HRQL) in dementia have been introduced. The aim of this review is to synthesize evidence from published reviews on HRQL measures in dementia and any new literature in order to identify dementia specific HRQL instruments, the domains they measure, and their operationalization.

Methods: An electronic search of PsycINFO and PubMed was conducted, from inception to December 2011 using a combination of key words that included quality of life and dementia.

Results: Fifteen dementia-specific HRQL instruments were identified. Instruments varied depending on their country of development/validation, dementia severity, data collection method, operationalization of HRQL in dementia, psychometric properties, and the scoring. The most common domains assessed include mood, self-esteem, social interaction, and enjoyment of activities.

Conclusions: A number of HRQL instruments for dementia are available. The suitability of the scales for different contexts is discussed. Many studies do not specifically set out to measure dementia-specific HRQL but do include related items. Determining how best to operationalize the many HRQL domains will be helpful for mapping measures of HRQL in such studies maximizing the value of existing resources.

Keywords: systematic review, psychometric properties, dimensions, operationalization, scales, mood

Introduction

Dementia is one of the most common disorders of old age (Ferri *et al.*, 2005; Marengoni *et al.*, 2008) and a leading cause of mortality and disability in high-income countries (Lopez *et al.*, 2006). Medications temporarily reduce symptoms for some, but without modifying the underlying course of the disorder, which is related to many underlying causes. Narrow assessment of cognition and functional ability is insufficient for clinical decision-making and policy development as they only reflect a part of the impact of dementia (Whitehouse, 2000). Treatment is increasingly focused on improving or maintaining optimal quality of life (QoL; Ettema *et al.*, 2005a) as

this has become a key outcome for evaluating the effectiveness of dementia interventions (Small *et al.*, 1997; Whitehouse, 2000; Moniz-Cook *et al.*, 2008).

Health-related quality of life (HRQL) can be defined as the individual's perception of the impact of a health condition on everyday life (Bullinger *et al.*, 1993). It differs from the concept of quality of life in that HRQL includes only aspects of quality of life that are affected by a health condition. Despite the lack of agreement of what domains constitute HRQL, most authors appear to agree upon the multidimensional and subjective nature of the concept and that the assessment should include measurement of positive and negative dimensions (Lawton, 1994; The WHOQOL Group, 1995; Brown *et al.*, 2004; Ready, 2011).

Multiple measures have been developed specifically for assessing HRQL in patients with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

These instruments can be either generic HRQL questionnaires used in dementia populations such as the World Health Organization Quality of

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Life Assessment (WHOQOL) or Schedule for the Evaluation of Individual Quality of Life (SEIQoL; The WHOQOL Group, 1998; Schölzel-Dorenbos, 2000), dimension specific scales such as the Progressive deteriorations Scale (PDS) (DeJong *et al.*, 1989) or dementia specific such as the Quality of Life in Alzheimer's Disease (QoL-AD) or the DEMQOL (Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Smith *et al.*, 2005a). A number of studies have reviewed the different instruments used to measure HRQL in dementia (e.g. Ready and Ott, 2003; Ettema *et al.*, 2005a). However, no attempt has been made as yet to synthesize the findings across the different reviews. Although one study has discussed the appropriateness of different scales (Schozel-Dorenbos *et al.*, 2007), this did not use a systematic methodology. No review has assessed the features of the different scales in detail in order to assess their suitability in different contexts.

The aim of this paper is to synthesize the evidence from reviews on HRQL instruments for dementia and any new literature to bring together and provide an update on dementia-specific HRQL measures providing details of their features including: number of items, scoring, data-collection method, severity in which the instrument may be administered, domains, time frame, countries where the scales were developed or validated, and measures of reliability and validity. The suitability of the scales in different contexts is discussed. Conceptualization and operationalization of dementia-specific HRQL domains by each dementia-specific instrument are analyzed and compared for consistency.

Methods

In order to synthesize the evidence from reviews on HRQL instruments in dementia, J. Perales conducted an electronic search in PubMed from inception to December 2011 using a combination of key words that included quality of life and dementia as major topic Mesh terms and specifying reviews as type of publication. The publications could be in either English or Spanish language.

In order to identify previous and new literature, a second electronic search was conducted of PsycINFO and PubMed, from inception to December 2011 using a combination of words that included quality of life and dementia as major topic Mesh terms or keywords. The criteria for inclusion were: (i) papers, abstracts or scale manuals that were published in English or Spanish language on dementia-specific HRQL measures developed for use with on patients with AD or mixed dementia; and (ii) reporting on the development, description of the dimensions, and psychometric properties of an

instrument. In order to report country of validation of the scales, those papers with abstracts in English irrespective of the rest of the text were also included. Generic, domain-specific QoL measures such as those measuring only activities of daily living (DeJong *et al.*, 1989) and Parkinson's disease-specific HRQL measures are beyond the scope of this review and were excluded. This review excluded considerations of caregiver quality of life except where this was related to measures of patient HRQL.

Literature selection was undertaken in two phases. In phase 1, titles and abstracts of all papers were independently reviewed (J. Perales and T.D. Cosco) to exclude non-related publications. Full-text papers accepted in phase 1 were reviewed in order to extract the appropriate information (phase 2). In case of discrepancy, if no agreement was met by both readers after discussion, a third author would decide (B.C.M. Stephan). In order to rate the psychometric quality assessment of each of the instruments, standardized criteria was used. These criteria are shown in Table 1.

Results

Reviews identified (literature search 1)

Of the 271 papers identified in the first literature search, eight were reviews on HRQL instruments in dementia (Salek *et al.*, 1998; Walker *et al.*, 1998; Ready and Ott, 2003; Ettema *et al.*, 2005a; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Lucas-Carrasco, 2007; Schozel-Dorenbos *et al.*, 2007; Ready, 2011). Only four (Salek *et al.*, 1998; Walker *et al.*, 1998; Ready and Ott, 2003; Ettema *et al.*, 2005a) used a systematic approach. Table 2 shows the dementia-specific HRQL instruments included in each of the eight reviews identified. Although the number of reviews increases by year of publication, there are some inconsistencies in the instruments included. The reviews highlight the wide variation in instruments, their items, and methods of scoring, psychometric properties, data collection method, severity of dementia, and the populations used to assess validity and reliability.

Instruments identified (literature search 2)

Figure 1 shows the selection process for the review on dementia-specific HRQL. In total, 848 papers were identified. After the title-abstract screen, 76 papers remained. Based on the full-text search, 68 publications covering 15 different dementia-specific HRQL scales were identified and included in this review. The dementia-specific HRQL measures reviewed included: the Alzheimer Disease Related Quality of Life (ADRQL), Bath

Table 1. Psychometric criteria

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTY	DEFINITION/TEST	CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTABILITY
Item analysis/reduction	Identification of items for possible elimination owing to weak psychometric performance; assessed on the basis of (1) unrotated principal component factor analysis to determine whether all items are measuring a single factor and (2) item analyses for all items	<i>Principal component factor analysis:</i> All items should load on the first unrotated factor >0.30 <i>Item analyses (applied to all items):</i> Missing data $<5\%$ No item redundancy (inter-item correlations ≤ 0.75) Item-total correlations >0.25 Maximum endorsement frequencies $\leq 80\%$ (i.e. the proportion of respondents who endorse each response category), including floor/ceiling effects $<80\%$ (i.e. response categories with high endorsement rates at the bottom/top ends of the scale, respectively) Aggregate adjacent endorsement frequencies $\geq 10\%$
Acceptability	The quality of data; assessed by completeness of data and score distributions	Missing data for summary scores $<5\%$ Even distribution of endorsement frequencies across response categories Floor ceiling effects for summary scores $<10\%$
Reliability		
Internal consistency	The extent to which items comprising a scale measure the same construct (e.g. homogeneity of the scale); assessed by Cronbach's α and item-total correlations	Cronbach's α for summary scores ≥ 0.70 Item-total correlations ≥ 0.20
Test-retest	The stability of a measuring instrument; assessed by administering the instrument to respondents on two different occasions and examining the correlation between test and retest scores	Test-retest reliability correlations for summary scores ≥ 0.70
Inter-rater	Agreement between independent raters/observers; assessed by ICCs	ICC ≥ 0.70
Parallel (alternative) forms	Agreement between two or more parallel/alternative forms or different versions of the same measure (e.g. form A/B, short/long form) that indicates that they can be used interchangeably; assessed on the basis of correlations between parallel/ alternative forms of a measure	High correlations between parallel/alternative forms of the measure (e.g. between long and short form)
Validity		
Content	The extent to which the content of a scale is representative of the conceptual domain it is intended to cover; assessed qualitatively during the questionnaire development stage through pretesting with patients, expert opinion, and literature review	Qualitative evidence from pretesting with patients, expert opinion, and literature review that items in the scale are representative of the construct being measured
Criterion related		
Concurrent	Evidence that the scale predicts a gold-standard criterion that is measured at the same time; assessed on the basis of correlations between the scale and the criterion measure.	High correlation between the scale and the criterion measure
Predictive	Evidence that the scale predicts a gold-standard criterion that is measured in the future; assessed on the basis of correlations between the scale and the criterion measure.	High correlation between the scale and the criterion measure

Table 1. Continued.

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTY	DEFINITION/TEST	CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTABILITY
Construct validity		
Within-scale analyses	Evidence that a single entity (construct) is being measured and that items can be combined to form a summary score; assessed on the basis of evidence of good internal consistency and correlations between scale scores (which purport to measure related aspects of the construct)	Internal consistency (Cronbach's α) ≥ 0.70 Moderate to high correlations between scale scores
Analyses against external criteria		
Convergent	Evidence that the scale is correlated with other measures of the same or similar constructs; assessed on the basis of correlations between the measure and other similar measures	Correlations are expected to vary according to the degree of similarity between the constructs that are being measured by each instrument. Specific hypotheses are formulated and predictions tested on the basis of correlations
Discriminant	Evidence that the scale is not correlated with measures of different constructs; assessed on the basis of correlations with measures of different constructs	Low correlations between the instrument and measures of different constructs
Known groups differences	The ability of a scale to differentiate known groups; assessed by comparing scores for subgroups who are expected to differ on the construct being measured	Significant differences between known groups or difference of expected magnitude
Responsiveness	The ability of a scale to detect clinically important change over time; assessed by comparing scores before and after an intervention of known efficacy (on the basis of various methods including <i>t</i> tests, effect sizes, standardized response means, or responsiveness statistics)	Significant differences between known groups or difference of expected magnitude

Adapted from Smith *et al.* (2005a).

Assessment of Subjective Quality of Life in Dementia (BASQUID), Cornell-Brown Scale for Quality of Life in Dementia (CBS), Dementia Care Mapping (DCM), Dementia Quality of Life Instrument (D-QoL), DEMQOL, Patient Activity Scale-AD plus the Modified Apparent Emotion Scale (PES-AD + AES), Quality of Life in Late-stage Dementia Scale (QUALID), QoL-AD, Quality of Life Assessment Schedule (QOLAS), Quality of Life for Dementia (QoL-D), QUALIDEM, Quality of Life for Older People Experiencing Dementia (QLDJ), Vienna List, and the Community Dementia Quality of Life Profile. As shown in Table 2, none of the reviews included the QLDJ or identified all the instruments. Table 3 shows the publications reviewed for each of the instruments. Some publications have assessed the psychometric properties of more than one instrument at a time (Edelman *et al.*, 2005; Sloane *et al.*, 2005; Smith *et al.*, 2005a).

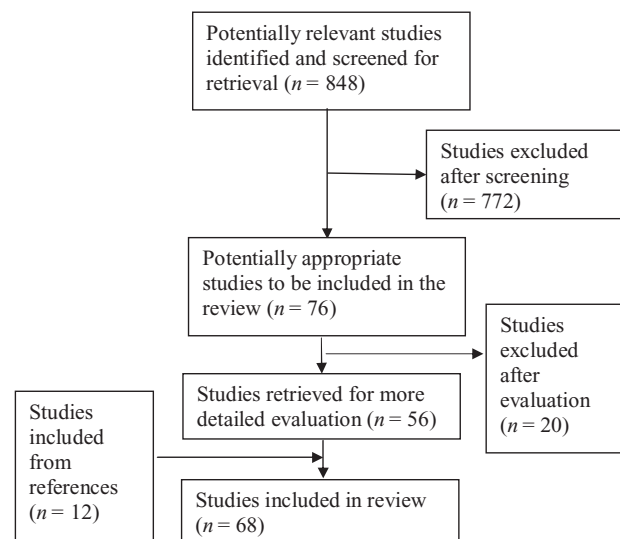


Figure 1. Flow chart of paper selection for the review on dementia-specific health-related quality-of-life instruments.

Table 2. Dementia-specific HRQL instruments included in each of the eight reviews identified in our search

SCALE/REVIEW	WALKER AND SALEK (1998) ^{a,b}	READY (2003) ^c	ETTEMA (2005a) ^d	SMITH (2005a) ^e	LUCAS- CARRASCO (2007) ^f	SCHOZEL- DORENBOS (2007) ^g	READY (2011) ^h
D-QoL	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
QoL-AD	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
DCM	×	×	×		×		×
CBS		×	×		×	×	×
QOLAS		×		×	×		×
ADRQL		×	×	×	×	×	×
QUALID		×			×		×
QoL-D			×	×	×		
DEMQOL				×	×	×	×
QUALIDEM						×	×
BASQID							×
QLDJ							
PES-AD+AES	×	×		×	×		×
CDQLP	×			×			
Vienna List						×	

^aSalek *et al.* (1998); ^bWalker *et al.* (1998); ^cReady and Ott (2003); ^dEttema *et al.* (2005a); ^eSmith *et al.* (2005a); ^fLucas-Carrasco (2007); ^gSchozel-Dorenbos *et al.* (2007); ^hReady (2011).

ADRQL: Alzheimer Disease Related Quality of Life; BASQID: The Bath Assessment of Subjective Quality of Life in Dementia; CDQLP: The Community Dementia Quality of Life Profile; CBS: Cornell-Brown Scale for Quality of Life in Dementia; DCM: Dementia Care Mapping; D-QoL: Dementia Quality of Life Instrument; QLDJ: Quality of Life for Older People Experiencing Dementia; QoL-AD: Quality of Life in Alzheimer's Disease; QoL-D: Quality of Life for Dementia; QOLAS: Quality of Life Assessment Schedule; QUALID: Quality of Life in Late-Stage Dementia Scale.

Instrument features

Table 4 summarizes the characteristics of the original version of each of the 15 different instruments and reports the existence of validations in other countries. There are two instruments where only self-report is possible, six proxy-report-only measures, four measures that include both self and proxy ratings, and three observer-rated instruments. The number of items varies between 10 in the QOLAS and 47 in the ADRQL. Three scales can obtain both total and subscale scores whereas six can only obtain subscale scores and six only total scores. Response scales vary from being binary to six-point Likert scales. Most response scales of observation-rated measures or those rated only by proxies ask about frequency of a certain behavior, whereas the other types of instruments vary between quality, how much of a problem, satisfaction, or worry of a trait. The psychometric properties of self-report only measures (Brod *et al.*, 1999; Trigg *et al.*, 2007a) have been tested in patients with mild-moderate dementia severity as have all measures using both types of report except for DEMQOL-proxy and QoL-AD. Two proxy-report only (Salek *et al.*, 1997; Black *et al.*, 1999) and two observer-rated instruments (Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Ettema and Lange, 2007) have tested their psychometric properties in patients of all dementia severity whereas the psychometric properties of the

rest have been tested in patients with moderate-severe dementia severity. The time frame of the questions is usually either in the present or in the previous week/two weeks. The number of dimensions ranges from two in the case of the DCM and PES-AD+AES to 13 in the QoL-AD. Most instruments have been developed in the USA (6) (Albert *et al.*, 1996; Black *et al.*, 1999; Brod *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Ready *et al.*, 2002) or the UK (5) (Salek *et al.*, 1997; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b). However, other instruments have also been developed in Japan (2) (Terada *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002), the Netherlands (1) (Ettema *et al.*, 2007) and Austria (1) (Porzsolt *et al.*, 2004). Five instruments (Brod *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a) have been validated in other countries. None of the samples used to assess the psychometric properties of each of the instruments were population based.

Conceptualization and operationalization

The most common domains across different dementia-specific HRQL instruments are mood, social interaction, enjoyment of activities/sense of aesthetics, and self-esteem/self-concept. Other common domains are cognition, activities, health, living conditions, and feelings of usefulness.

Table 3. Primary and secondary papers on dementia-specific HRQL measures identified in our search

INSTRUMENT	PRIMARY PAPERS (DEVELOPMENT)	SECONDARY PAPERS (MODIFICATIONS AND VALIDATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES)
Alzheimer Disease Related Quality of Life (ADRQL)	1, 2	3, 4, 5, 6
Bath Assessment of Subjective Quality of Life in Dementia (BASQID)	7, 8	
Cornell-Brown Scale for Quality of Life in Dementia (CBS)	9	
Community Dementia Quality of Life Profile (CDQLP)	10–14	
Dementia Care Mapping (DCM)	15	5, 1618
DEMQOL	19, 20	21, 22
Dementia Quality of Life Instrument (D-QoL)	23	5, 6, 19, 24–32, 33
Patient Activity Scale-AD plus the Modified Apparent Emotion Scale (PES-AD +AES)	34, 35	5
Quality of Life for Older People Experiencing Dementia (QLDJ)	36, 37	
Quality of Life-Alzheimer's Disease (QoL-AD)	38, 39	6, 19, 40–56
Quality of Life Assessment Schedule (QOLAS)	57	
Quality of Life for Dementia (QoL-D)	58	
Quality of Life in Late-stage Dementia Scale (QUALID)	59	60–64
QUALIDEM	65–67	
Vienna List	68	

References. 1: Rabins *et al.* (1999); 2: Black *et al.* (1999); 3: Kasper *et al.* (2009); 4: Black *et al.* (2009); 5: Sloane *et al.* (2005); 6: Edelman *et al.* (2005); 7: Trigg *et al.* (2007a); 8: Trigg *et al.* (2007b); 9: Ready *et al.* (2002); 10: Salek *et al.* (1999); 11: Salek *et al.* (1996); 12: Walker *et al.* (2001a); 13: Walker *et al.* (2001b); 14: Salek *et al.* (1997); 15: Fossey *et al.* (2002); 16: Sloane *et al.* (2007); 17: Suzuki *et al.* (2008); 18: Brooker and Surr (2006); 19: Smith *et al.* (2005a); 20: Smith *et al.* (2005b); 21: Smith *et al.* (2007); 22: Lucas-Carrasco *et al.* (2010); 23: Brod *et al.* (1999); 24: Adler and Resnick (2010); 25: Lucas-Carrasco *et al.* (2011); 26: Chiu *et al.* (2008); 27: Chiu *et al.* (2010); 28: Karim *et al.* (2008); 29: Ready *et al.* (2007); 30: Suzuki *et al.* (2005); 31: Suzuki *et al.* (2006); 32: Bosboom and Jonkers (2001); 33: Porzolt *et al.* (2004); 34: Albert *et al.* (1996); 35: Albert *et al.* (2001); 36: Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.* (2002); 37: Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.* (2004); 38: Logsdon *et al.* (1999); 39: Logsdon *et al.* (2002); 40: León-Salas *et al.* (2011); 41: Chan *et al.* (2011); 42: Fuh and Wang (2006); 43: Hoe *et al.* (2005); 44: Lin Kiat Yap *et al.* (2008); 45: Matsui *et al.* (2006); 46: Hao-ying and Guo-dong (2005); 47: Rosas-Carrasco *et al.* (2010); 48: Shin (2006); 49: Novelli *et al.* (2010); 50: Novelli *et al.* (2005); 51: Patterson *et al.* (2006); 52: Revell *et al.* (2009); 53: Selai *et al.* (2001b); 54: Thorgrimsen *et al.* (2003); 55: Wolak *et al.* (2009); 56: Merchant *et al.* (2004); 57: Selai *et al.* (2001a); 58: Terada *et al.* (2002); 59: Weiner *et al.* (2000); 60: Barca *et al.* (2011); 61: Falk *et al.* (2007); 62: Garre-Olmo *et al.* (2010); 63: Martin-Cook *et al.* (2005); 64: Schalkwijk *et al.* (2009); 65: Ettema *et al.* (2007); 66: Bouman *et al.* (2011); 67: Ettema and Lange (2007); 68: Porzolt *et al.* (2004).

Domains are operationalized differently across instruments. Most domains are operationalized either through the patient or proxy's perception of the different domains or through the rating of observational behaviors or contexts.

Most instruments measure mood as positive and negative affect although two exceptions are the QoL-AD, which asks for mood in general, and the QOLAS, which needs to be given two examples within the mood domain by the respondent. Common items on positive affect are cheerfulness, happiness, contentment, and calm. The most common items indicating negative effect are sadness, anger, worry, and anxiety. Proxy and observation-based instruments usually measure either observational indicators of patient's mood (such as crying) or proxy's perception of the patient's mood. A similar trend can be observed in other dimensions. For example, social interaction has been assessed as the perception by the patient or the proxy of the patient's quality of interactions such as worries about not having enough company,

satisfaction or problems with social relationships, or through observation-based ratings such as frequency of visiting friends, talking or seeking or rejecting contact with people. Enjoyment of activities has been measured through perception, satisfaction, or worry about enjoyment of different activities, or observation-based assessments such as voluntarily participation in activities and talking about work or activities. A special case is the domain sense of aesthetics, which has been defined as the ability to enjoy sensory stimuli. Items on self-esteem involve perceptions of usefulness, self-confidence, and satisfaction with oneself. Observer-based ratings consist usually in noticing that patients mention they are worthless, hopeless, or useless. Some questionnaires such as the ADRQL measure awareness of self with items such as responding to one's own name. Some instruments also include activities of daily living in their assessment of HRQL. These items have been measured as the patient or proxy's perception of the ability to do chores such as walking, cooking, eating,

Table 4. Dementia-specific instruments reviewed and their characteristics

MEASURE	NO. OF ITEMS	SCORING	RESPONSE SCALE	SEVERITY	TIME FRAME	DIMENSIONS	VALIDATED IN POPULATION STUDIES	COUNTRY OF VALIDATION
Self-rated only								
BASQID	14	Total and subscales	5 point (not at all satisfied–extremely satisfied) and (not at all–a great deal)	Mild–moderate	Present	Life satisfaction, feelings of positive QoL	No	UK (original)
D-QoL	29	Subscales	5 point (never–very often) and (not at all–very)	Mild–moderate	Recently	Positive affect, negative affect, feelings of belonging, self-esteem, sense of aesthetics	No	USA (original), China, Japan, Spain, UK, Netherlands
Patient and proxy rated								
CBS	19	Total	5 point (negative end–positive end)	Mild–moderate	Previous week	Positive affect, negative affect, satisfactions, physical complaints	No	USA (original)
DEMQOL	28 (p), 31 (c)	Total	4 point (a lot–not at all)	Mild–moderate (p) all stages (c)	Previous week	Daily activities, health and well-being, cognitive functioning, social relationships, self-concept	No	UK (original), Spain
QoL-AD	12	Total	4 point (poor–excellent)	All stages	Present	Physical health, energy, mood, living situation, memory, family, marriage, friends, self as a whole, ability to do chores around the house, ability to do things for fun, money, QoL as a whole	No	USA (original), China (Cantonese and Mandarin), Taiwan, Spain, Japan, Brazil, Korea, France, (and French Switzerland), Mexico, UK
QOLAS	10	Total	6 point (no problem–it could not be worse)	Mild–moderate	Present	Physical, psychological, social/family, usual activities, cognitive functioning	No	UK (original)
Proxy-rated only								
ADRQL	47	Total and subscales	Dichotomous (agree/disagree)	All stages	Previous 2 weeks	Social interaction, awareness of self, feelings and mood, enjoyment of activities, response to surroundings	No	USA (original)

Table 4. Continued.

MEASURE	NO. OF ITEMS	SCORING	RESPONSE SCALE	SEVERITY	TIME FRAME	DIMENSIONS	VALIDATED IN POPULATION STUDIES	COUNTRY OF VALIDATION
CDQLP	33	Total	4 point (not at all–always)	All stages	Previous 2 weeks	Thinking and behavior, family and social life, physical activities, other aspects of daily living	No	UK (original)
PES-AD+ AES	21	Subscales	Activity: 3 point (frequently–never), affect: 5 point (never– $\geq 3 \times$ day)	Mild	Affect: previous 2 weeks, activity: previous week	Activity, affect	No	USA (original)
QLDJ	24	Total and subscales	4 point (not at all applicable, very much applicable)	Moderate–severe	Previous 2 weeks	Interacting with surroundings, expressing self, experiencing minimum negative behaviors	No	Japan (original)
QoL-D	31	Subscales	4 point (none–frequent)	Moderate–severe	Not specified	Positive affect, negative affect and actions, ability of communication, restlessness, attachment with others, spontaneity and activity	No	Japan (original)
QUALID	11	Total	5 point (different options of frequency)	Moderate–severe	Previous week	Affect, comfort, and engagement with activities	No	USA (original), Sweden, Spain
Observational assessment DCM	26	Subscales	Well-being: 6 point (extreme ill-being–extreme well-being)	All stages	Every 5 minutes for 6 hours	Well-being, activity	No	UK (original), Japan

QUALIDEM	37	Subscales	4 point (never-often)	All stages	Previous 2 weeks	Care relationships, positive affect, negative affect, restless tense behavior, positive self-image, social relations, social isolation, feeling at home, having something to do	No	Netherlands (original)
Vienna List	40	Subscales	5 point (never-always)	Severe	Present	Communication, negative affect, bodily contact, aggression, mobility	No	Austria (original)

p = patient version, c = caregiver version.
 ADRQL: Alzheimer Disease-Related Quality of Life; BASQID: The Bath Assessment of Subjective Quality of Life in Dementia; CDQLP: The Community Dementia Quality of Life Profile;
 DCM: Dementia Care Mapping; D-QoL: Dementia Quality of Life Instrument; QLDI: Quality of Life for Older People Experiencing Dementia; QoL-AD: Quality of Life in Alzheimer's Disease;
 QoL-D: Quality of Life for Dementia; QOLAS: Quality of Life Assessment Schedule; QUALID: Quality of Life in Late-stage Dementia Scale.

and shopping or how much problem or worry these activities involve. The same applies to the assessment of cognitive functioning. Other domains that have not been included so often include self-rated health, financial, and living context.

Psychometric properties

Table 5 shows the psychometric quality assessment using the criteria shown in Table 1. Ten instruments (Albert *et al.*, 1996; Salek *et al.*, 1997; Black *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Ready *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Porzsolt *et al.*, 2004) either were not tested for acceptability or did not meet the criteria. Regarding reliability, all instruments but PES-AD+AES, DCM, and DEMQOL-Proxy show good evidence of internal consistency. Eight instruments (Salek *et al.*, 1997; Brod *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Ettema *et al.*, 2007; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b) showed good evidence of test-retest reliability. Among those instruments assessed by a proxy or an observer, six instruments assessed inter-rater reliability, most of them showing good evidence. Regarding validity, ten instruments showed good evidence of content validity (Salek *et al.*, 1997; Black *et al.*, 1999; Brod *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Terada *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Ettema *et al.*, 2007; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b). Despite the fact that criterion-related validity cannot be tested due to the lack of a gold standard, two measures (Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Ready *et al.*, 2002) claim to show some evidence of it, perhaps referring to convergent validity. Regarding analyses against external criteria, 14 instruments (Albert *et al.*, 1996; Salek *et al.*, 1997; Black *et al.*, 1999; Brod *et al.*, 1999; Logsdon *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Ready *et al.*, 2002; Terada *et al.*, 2002; Porzsolt *et al.*, 2004; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Ettema *et al.*, 2007; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b) show evidence of convergent validity but not discriminant or known groups differences. Six measures have shown responsiveness (D-QoL, BASQID, QoL-AD, ADRQL, QUALID, and DCM). Finally, the factorial structure of nine instruments has been analyzed (Brod *et al.*, 1999; Salek *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Terada *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b; Revell *et al.*, 2009), most of them finding subscales.

Discussion

This review synthesizes the information on dementia specific HRQL instruments from reviews

Table 5. Psychometric properties of the dementia-specific instruments

MEASURE	ACCEPTABILITY	INTERNAL CONSISTENCY	TEST- RETEST	INTER-RATER RELIABILITY	CONTENT VALIDITY	CRITERION- RELATED VALIDITY	CONVERGENT VALIDITY	DISCRIMINANT VALIDITY	KNOWN GROUPS DIFFERENCES	RESPONSIVENESS	FACTOR OR PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS ANALYSIS
Self-rated only											
BASQID	++	+++	+++	NA	+++	–	+++	++	–	Yes	Yes
D-QoL	++	+++	+++	NA	+++	–	++	–	++	–	Yes
Patient and proxy rated											
CBS	–	+++	–	NA (c)/ ++ +(p)	–	+	++	–	–	–	–
DEMQOL	++ (c) (+++(p)	+++ (c) (++(p)	+++	NA (c) (– (p)	+++	–	++	++	– (c) (+ (p)	–	Yes
QoL-AD	–	+++	+++	NA (c)/ – (p)	+++	–	+++	–	– (c)/ +++(p)	Yes	Yes
QOLAS	–	+++	–	NA (c)/ – (p)	+++	+	++	–	++	–	–
MEASURE	ACCEPTABILITY	INTERNAL CONSISTENCY	TEST- RETEST	INTER-RATER RELIABILITY	CONTENT VALIDITY	CRITERION- RELATED VALIDITY	CONVERGENT VALIDITY	DISCRIMINANT VALIDITY	KNOWN GROUPS DIFFERENCES	RESPONSIVENESS	FACTOR OR PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS ANALYSIS
Proxy rated only											
ADRQL	–	+++	–	–	+++	–	+++	–	–	Yes	–
CDQLP	–	+++	+++	–	+++	–	+	–	–	–	Yes
PES-	–	–	++	–	–	–	+	–	–	Yes	–
AD+AES											
QLDJ	–	+++	+++	++	+++	–	–	++	+	–	Yes
QoL-D	+++	+++	–	+++	+++	–	++	–	–	–	Yes
QUALID	–	+++	+++	+++	–	–	+++	++	–	Yes	Yes
Observational assessment											
DCM	–	+	+	–	–	+	++	–	–	Yes	Yes
QUALIDEM	++	+++	+++	++	+++	–	+++	+++	–	–	–
Vienna List	–	+++	–	++	+	–	++	–	–	–	–

p = patient version; c = caregiver version.

CRITERIA

– No evidence or not tested.

+ Some limited evidence

++ Some good evidence but some aspect do not meet criteria or some aspects not tested/reported

+++ Good evidence

NA, not applicable

EXAMPLE

ADRQL did not assess acceptability

CDQLP only reported the *p* value when examining the association between the total score and the MMSE score

DEMQOL's acceptability: missingness is always higher than 5% although there is no floor or ceiling effect.

DEMQOL proxy's acceptability: missingness is always lower than 5% and there are no floor or ceiling effects.

Inter-rater reliability in self-rated scales

ADRQL: Alzheimer Disease-Related Quality of Life; BASQID: The Bath Assessment of Subjective Quality of Life in Dementia; CDQLP: The Community Dementia Quality of Life Profile; CBS: Cornell-Brown Scale for Quality of Life in Dementia; DCM: Dementia Care Mapping; D-QoL: Dementia Quality of Life Instrument; QLDJ: Quality of Life for Older People Experiencing Dementia; QoL-AD: Quality of Life in Alzheimer's Disease; QoLAS: Quality of Life Assessment Schedule; QUALID: Quality of Life in Late-stage Dementia Scale.

(Salek *et al.*, 1998; Walker *et al.*, 1998; Ready and Ott, 2003; Ettema *et al.*, 2005a; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Lucas-Carrasco, 2007; Schozel-Dorenbos *et al.*, 2007; Ready, 2011) and builds on these by gathering them all into a single study and identifying one new measure, the QLDJ.

While this is a systematic review, we did not include measures assessing only a specific domain of HRQL such as the PDS (DeJong *et al.*, 1989), or generic HRQL scales that are not tailored to people with dementia (Rabins *et al.*, 1999; Silberfeld *et al.*, 2002). Their focus on health and function imply that HRQL will decrease automatically with disease progression (Ettema *et al.*, 2005a) and some of these lack evidence on validity or reliability in dementia populations (Ettema *et al.*, 2005a). We also did not include instruments that measure the QoL of caregivers of people with dementia as these are outside the scope of this review. The literature searches were conducted in English and in Anglophone databases and, therefore, instruments developed in non-English-speaking countries without a translation available would have been missed. However, regarding instrument development and validation, we accepted any publication as long as the abstract was in English or Spanish.

Conceptualization and operationalization

The concept of HRQL in dementia has been influenced by the broader concept of QoL that refers to “evaluation by subjective and social-normative criteria, of the behavioral and environmental situation of a person” (Lawton, 1994). There has been a movement in QoL toward the measurement of the experience of the person, including usually perceptions or satisfactions with psychological, physical, and social domains (Ettema *et al.*, 2005b). In dementia-specific HRQL instruments, the measurement is also aimed at capturing the experience of the person with dementia. Domains commonly measured are mood, self-esteem, social interaction, and enjoyment of activities. Similarly to the general concept of QoL, normative measures such as income or cognitive tests (different to perception or satisfaction with such domains) have been excluded and considered as a different outcome (Brod *et al.*, 1999; Rabins *et al.*, 1999). Conceptual frameworks do not differ in essence with Lawton’s model of HRQL in dementia (Lawton, 1994), although they limit the number of domains. Different perspectives on HRQL abound and are manifest in the variety of domains represented in the different scales. For example, the measurement of HRQL using the ADRQL will widely differ to the one using the CDQLP

since they have very few domains in common. Instruments also differ in their breadth of the assessment and whether subjective experience of the person with dementia is assessed or proxy measures (observational or not) are used instead. While self-reported measures are more appropriate for measuring the patient’s own experience, in severe stages, the use of instruments based on proxy ratings is inevitable. Further, we found that there is no single protocol for assessing the different domains across instruments. This limits cross-study comparability.

Country of development and validation

Most dementia-specific HRQL measures were developed in the USA and UK. A number of scales have been validated in other countries such as Spain and Japan (Suzuki *et al.*, 2005, 2006; Matsui *et al.*, 2006), increasing the availability. The QoL-AD has been validated in at least ten different countries and the D-QoL has been validated in at least five different countries in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. This allows for cross-country comparisons. However, the concept of HRQL may vary across different cultures and culturally specific scales may also be needed. Further, for validation studies is the issue of the representativeness of samples used in development and validations studies. None of the 15 instruments have been developed using a population-based sample raising issues of generalizability.

Dementia severity

Decisions for scale selection will depend on the dementia severity. Self-rated instruments would be more appropriate for mild-moderate stages and proxy and observer-rated instruments more appropriate at more severe stages of the disease. Most of the extant dementia-specific HRQL measures are proxy rated. This is a consequence of the idea that people with dementia are not able to rate their own HRQL due to cognitive impairment. However, there is a strong movement in measurement of HRQL in dementia to obtain self-reports from the individual with dementia where possible given recent findings that suggest that people with mild to moderate dementia are aware and able to assess their HRQL (Brod *et al.*, 1999; Mozley *et al.*, 1999; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Logsdon *et al.*, 2002; Ready *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b). Proxy informants have a different point of view on the patient’s HRQL and tend to give lower rating than people with dementia (Logsdon *et al.*, 2002; Thorgrimsen *et al.*, 2003). Even with careful training of observers, it is uncertain whether the observed behaviors represent

the most important and relevant aspects of HRQL, as these measures have been developed to assess the subjective perceptions of QoL. However, it has been shown that proxies are as good as patients in detecting changes in HRQL over time (Sneeuw *et al.*, 1997). Studies suggest that these differences in reporting can be explained by the disability paradox, caregiver states such as depression or burden and the lack of patient's insight (Carr and Higginson, 2001; Logsdon *et al.*, 2002; Novella *et al.*, 2012), but also by methodological issues such as precision bias or response bias (Smith *et al.*, 2005a). Obtaining information from both sources (patients and caregivers) is important since they reflect different and imperfect measurements of "true" state and may be contrasted, providing richer information. A different approach is assessing HRQL using different instruments covering all dementia severities (Edelman *et al.*, 2005); however, this method can be confusing since different conceptual frameworks are assumed when using different measures.

Purpose of assessment

Instruments may be used for clinical practice or for research. For clinical practice, since the main aim is to help the individual to continue living in the optimal fashion, the optimal scale will be the one that lets the persons with dementia assess a personal perception of HRQL allowing a more individualized and, therefore, effective treatment plan. To date, there is only one scale that allows this type of assessment, the QOLAS (Selai *et al.*, 2001a). This is a double edged sword since a drawback of this measure in research is that, for this same reason, scores of the different participants or the same participant in different stages might not reflect the same concept of HRQL and, therefore, comparisons do not seem to be completely pertinent. This raises the question of whether people can learn to consider certain aspects when assessing their HRQL and dismiss others. This would be useful for improving HRQL in dementia.

For cross-sectional studies, operationalization, country of development/validation and data collection method will guide the selection of the scale. However, when it comes to longitudinal designs, the use of proxy and observer-rated scales seems more appropriate since severity of dementia is likely to change over time. For both longitudinal and randomized control trials, responsiveness is an important factor. To date, at least six instruments have proved to have a certain degree of responsiveness or sensitivity to change. These measures are the BASQID,

QoL-AD, ADRQL, QUALID, PES-AD+AES, and DCM. (Black *et al.*, 1999; Albert *et al.*, 2001; Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Thorgrimsen *et al.*, 2003; Martin-Cook *et al.*, 2005; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b).

Psychometric properties

Almost every measure showed good evidence of internal consistency, and most measures have at least tested reliability in two different ways. All self-rated instruments and one scale of each of the other data collection methods showed at least some good evidence of acceptability. These scales are the D-QoL and BASQID for self-rated, DEMQOL for both self and proxy rated, and QoL-D and QUALIDEM for proxy-rated. Content validity has been mostly reached by qualitative evidence from pretesting with patients, expert opinion, and literature review that items in the scale are representative of the construct. In-depth qualitative interviews with people with dementia and/or their carers were conducted for the D-QoL, DEMQOL, BASQID, ADRQL, QUALIDEM, and QoL-D in order to generate the scale items. A special case is the QOLAS, in which the items are tailored to each respondent. Although two measures (Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Ready *et al.*, 2002) claim to measure it, criterion-related validity cannot be assessed due to the lack of a gold standard with which to compare it. Convergent validity has mainly been assessed by means of correlations between the scales and measures of dementia severity (Albert *et al.*, 1996; Salek *et al.*, 1996; Brod *et al.*, 1999; Rabins *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Ready *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Porzsolt *et al.*, 2004; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Ettema *et al.*, 2007; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b), depression (Rabins *et al.*, 1999; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Logsdon *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Ettema *et al.*, 2007), activities of daily living (Rabins *et al.*, 1999; Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Selai *et al.*, 2001a; Logsdon *et al.*, 2002; Terada *et al.*, 2002; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Porzsolt *et al.*, 2004; Smith *et al.*, 2005a), behavioral and psychological symptoms (Weiner *et al.*, 2000; Ettema *et al.*, 2007), and other measures of QoL (Fossey *et al.*, 2002; Smith *et al.*, 2005a; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b). Discriminant validity has not often been assessed and usually includes associations with gender, age, or caregiver characteristics.

Scoring

A profile score or subscales of nine out of 15 instruments can be obtained. Within these nine, three (ADRQL, QLDJ, and BASQID) (Rabins *et al.*, 1999; Yamamoto-Mitani *et al.*, 2002; Trigg *et al.*, 2007b) can also calculate a total HRQL score. The possibility of calculating subscale scores is vital

for the assessment of HRQL. First, because HRQL is by definition a multidimensional concept and, therefore, the scores should represent each domain. Second, if HRQL is to be used in order to assess treatment benefits, subscale scores may shape those treatments.

Conclusion

There has been much development on the measurement of dementia-specific HRQL in the last two decades. This is perhaps due to the lack of consensus on the concept of HRQL in dementia. It is also a reflection of the importance of assessing HRQL in this group of people (Karlawish *et al.*, 2000; Whitehouse, 2000; Moniz-Cook *et al.*, 2008). The fact that dementia may be expressed in many different ways makes the concept of HRQL in dementia even more complex. The suitability of the scale depends on several factors; namely countries (development/validation), dementia severity (mild, moderate, or severe), data collection method (patient, proxy, both, or observer rating), purpose of the assessment (clinical practice, research), conceptualization and operationalization (domains and items), psychometric properties (validity and reliability), and scoring (total scores vs. subscales). Many studies do not specifically set out to measure dementia-specific HRQL but do include related items as part of their surveys that together may function as a HRQL scale (e.g. items on depression, social interaction, or enjoyment of activities). This paper may also be useful for mapping HRQL dimensions in such studies maximizing the value of existing resources. In order to do so, item analyses could determine the performance of frequently used questions in dementia HRQL instruments. These items could also be mapped onto already existing conceptual frameworks. The items to be used will depend on how severe the dementia is and how the information was administered. However, validity and reliability will have to be analyzed if this is to be conducted. Future studies validating each scale across samples (community vs. clinical), populations, and cohorts are needed to be able to generalize results.

Conflict of interest

None.

Description of authors' roles

J. Perales conducted literature review, the data collection, and wrote the paper. T.D. Cosco

conducted the literature review and assisted with writing the paper. B.C.M. Stephan supervised the data collection and assisted with writing the paper. J.M. Haro assisted with writing the paper. C. Brayne supervised the data collection, development of the paper, and assisted with writing the paper.

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