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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Translation and cross-cultural adaptation into Brazilian Portuguese of the Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 (VHNSS 2.0) for the assessment of oral symptoms in head and neck cancer patients submitted to radiotherapy☆

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KEYWORDS
Head and neck neoplasms;
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Abstract
Introduction: Patients submitted to radiotherapy for the treatment of head and neck cancer have several symptoms, predominantly oral. The Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 is an American tool developed to evaluate oral symptoms in head and neck cancer patients submitted to radiotherapy.
Objective: The aim of the present study was to translate the Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 into Brazilian Portuguese and cross-culturally adapt this tool for subsequent validation and application in Brazil.
Methods: A method used for the translation and cultural adaptation of tools, which included independent translations, synthesis of the translations, back-translations, expert committee, and pre-test, was used. The pre-test was performed with 37 head and neck cancer patients, who were divided into four groups, to assess the relevance and understanding of the assessed items. Data were submitted to descriptive statistical analysis.

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Results: The overall mean of the content validity index was 0.79 for semantic and idiomatic equivalence, and it was higher than 0.8 for cultural and conceptual equivalence. The cognitive interview showed that patients were able to paraphrase the items, and considered them relevant and easily understood.
Conclusion: The tool was translated and cross-culturally adapted to be used in Brazil. The authors believe this translation is suited for validation.
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PALAVRAS-CHAVE
Neoplasias de cabeça e pescoço;
Qualidade de vida;
Tradução;
Saúde bucal

Tradução e adaptação cultural para o português (Brasil) do instrumento Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 (VHNSS 2.0) para avaliação de sintomas orais em pacientes com câncer de cabeça e pescoço submetidos à radioterapia

Resumo
Introdução: Pacientes submetidos à radioterapia para tratamento de câncer de cabeça e pescoço apresentam diversos sintomas, com predominância de sintomas orais. O Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 é um instrumento americano que foi desenvolvido para avaliar sintomas orais em pacientes com câncer de cabeça e pescoço submetidos à radioterapia.
Objetivo: Traduzir o Vanderbilt Head and Neck Symptom Survey version 2.0 e adaptá-lo culturalmente para subsequente validação e aplicação no Brasil.
Método: Um método de tradução e adaptação cultural de instrumentos foi utilizado, o qual inclui traduções independentes, síntese das traduções, retrotraduções, comitê de especialistas e pré-teste. O pré-teste foi realizado em 37 pacientes com câncer de cabeça e pescoço divididos em quatro grupos para avaliar a relevância e entendimento dos itens. Dados foram submetidos à análise estatística descritiva.
Resultados: A média geral do índice de validade de conteúdo foi 0,79 para as equivalências semânticas e idiomáticas; e maior que 0,8 para as equivalências cultural e conceitual. A entrevista cognitiva mostrou que os pacientes foram capazes de parafrasear os itens e os consideravam relevante e de fácil entendimento.
Conclusão: O instrumento foi traduzido e adaptado culturalmente ao Brasil. Nós acreditamos que esta tradução está apta para a validação.
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Introduction

Head and neck cancer (HNC) includes tumors that affect the lips, oral cavity, oropharynx, nasopharynx, hypopharynx, larynx, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, thyroid gland, and salivary glands.[1] These cancers account for approximately 10% of malignant tumors.[2] In Brazil, for the years 2012/2013, approximately 20,000 cases were estimated only for tumors in the oral cavity and larynx.[3]

Therapeutic options for HNC, including radiotherapy, contribute to significant adverse symptoms and loss of function.[4] Such symptoms may occur immediately, soon after the treatment, or may appear later.[5] The oral alterations are prominent, and include mucositis, dysphagia, taste and mucosal sensitivity alterations, xerostomia, teeth alterations, and excess mucus.[5–9] With the exception of xerostomia, mucositis, and dysphagia, these alterations have been little discussed in the literature and are believed to be underreported.[9] Half of surviving HNC patients have problems and complications five years after the primary treatment, which include pain, problems with teeth, problems with chewing and swallowing,[10] or high scores for symptoms such as xerostomia, mucus production, and swallowing alterations related to treatment.[11]

The xerostomia resulting from HNC treatment causes damage to oral health[12] and has a negative impact on the quality of life (QoL) of these patients.[6] In addition to hyposalivation, which contributes to the onset of mucositis, some patients may have an excessive amount of mucus[11] that obstructs the airway, resulting in alterations in sleeping, coughing, and choking.[9] Another common symptom in patients treated for HNC is the alteration of taste,[8] a direct result of the effect of radiation on the taste buds, and alterations in saliva.[13] HNC treatment also contributes to a worsening of dental health.[14] Patients submitted to radiotherapy had worse dental status when compared to those submitted to chemotherapy.[15] In the Brazilian population, a longitudinal study showed that in patients with oral cancer, the most common problems were related to difficulties in chewing, swallowing, pain, and reduced salivary flow, suggesting the importance of dental monitoring of patients in all stages of treatment.[16]

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