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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Cardiff acne disability index: cross-cultural translation in Korean and its relationship with clinical acne severity, pathological patterns, and general quality of life

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**Abstract** 

**OBJECTIVE:** To culturally translate the cardiff acne disability index (CADI) into Korean, and to examine its relationship with clinical acne severity, pathological patterns, and general quality of life (QoL).

METHODS: The CADI was culturally and lin-

guistically translated into Korean *via* translation, back-translation, and face validity test process. Two hundred and fifty-four Korean adolescents were asked to complete the Korean version of the CADI (K-CADI), the Phlegm Pattern, the Cold-Heat Pattern, and the Korean version of the General Health Questionnaires. A clinician estimated acne severity for the adolescents, using the Korean Acne Grading System. Finally, reliability and validity of the K-CADI was examined, and the relationships between acne severity, Phlegm, Cold, and Heat patterns, and QoL level were examined via pathway analysis.

**RESULTS:** The K-CADI had satisfactory internal consistency ( $\alpha=0.827$ ). The examination of construct validity indicated that the K-CADI had one factor (explaining 59.6% of the total variance). Pathway analysis showed satisfactory model fit (normal fit index = 0.960 and comparative fit index = 0.983), and acne-related QoL was determinant to Phlegm, Heat, and Cold patterns (0.13-0.27 of  $\beta$ ), and Phlegm and Heat patterns lowered one's QoL level (0.17-0.34 of  $\beta$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** The K-CADI is a valid and reliable instrument. Phlegm and Heat patterns should be managed when treating acne since they have a moderating effect on general QoL aggravation.

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**Keywords:** Acne vulgaris; Quality of life; Medicine, East Asian Traditional; Psychology, adolescent; Causality; Cardiff acne disability index

### INTRODUCTION

Acne is a common disease and affects 85% of adolescents.1 Since acne is not a fatal or systemic disease, the effects of acne on adolescents has been underestimated in the medical field. However, disfigurement of acne-affected regions (e.g., the face) can cause various psychological problems, including depression, anxiety, and eating disorders; moreover, adolescents with acne have difficulty forming relationships with peers. 2,3 Quality of Life (QoL) is a broad-ranging concept; it comprises multiple domains including emotional well-being, social functioning, physical health, patient environment, and personal beliefs. QoL can be assessed with both generic and condition-specific instruments.4 The Cardiff acne disability index (CADI) is a measure of acne-related QoL; this measure is a 5-item QoL questionnaire and was designed by Motley et al.5 There have been versions developed in French, Chinese, Persian, Serbian, and Malaysian; these versions of the CADI have been cross-culturally translated and validated. 6-10 However, the Korean version of the CADI (K-CADI) has yet to be culturally and linguistically translated. Therefore, the first purpose of this study was to conduct cross-cultural translation of the original version of the CADI into Korean, according to published guidelines.11

From an East Asian medical point of view, acne can be classified into several pathological patterns, including Phlegm and Heat patterns.12 In a review of the literature, it was reported that 87% of acne-related pathological patterns were Wind-Heat and Phlegm patterns, 13 and it is possible that clinical acne severity affects acne-related pathological patterns. Furthermore, Motley et al 5 reported that the clinical severity of acne was related to acne-related QoL, and Cho et al 14 reported that pathological patterns, including Phlegm and Seven Emotions Impairment patterns, affected general QoL. Considering the relationship between the clinical severity of acne, acne-related QoL, pathological patterns, and one's general QoL, it is plausible that there will be a relationship between them. Therefore, the second purpose of our study was to examine how pathological patterns were affected by clinical acne severity and acne-related QoL; in addition, the effect of acne on general QoL was also examined.

In this study, a cross-cultural translation of the original version of the CADI in Korean was conducted to test the relationships between the clinical acne severity, pathological patterns, acne-related QoL, and general QoL.

# **METHODS**

#### Subjects and data collection

A total of 254 young Korean adolescents (male:

female = 115: 139) participated in this study (Group A). The average age of the male and female subjects in Group A was  $(16 \pm 3)$  and  $(17 \pm 4)$  years, respectively. Data from Group A were used to examine the reliability and construct validity of the K-CADI. In addition, 107 college students (male: female = 83: 24) participated in this study (Group B). The average age of the male and female subjects in Group B was  $(26 \pm 4)$  and  $(27 \pm 5)$  years (Figure 1). Data from Group B were used to examine the face validity of the K-CADI. An informed consent form was given from the participants in both groups.

#### K-CADI

The CADI is consisted of five items, and each question is rated on 4-point Likert scale (0-3). On the original version of the CADI, a rating of "0" indicated a maximum effect on QoL, whereas a rating of "3" indicated a minimal effect on QoL. However, in this study, we followed the scaling on the Serbian version of the CADI; specifically, we assigned inverse anchors to each item on the K-CADI (0 = no effect on QoL; 3 = maximum effect). This procedure was followed since higher points generally indicate higher severity for items on the questionnaire. The total scores of the K-CADI were calculated by summing the items as was done in the Serbian study; total scores on the K-CADI ranged from 0 to 15 points, with higher scores indicating decreased acne-specific QoL.

# Short-form phlegm pattern questionnaire (SF-PPQ) and Cold-Heat pattern questionnaire (CHPQ)

The SF-PPQ consists of 14 items,15 and the CHPQ consists of ten Heat pattern-related and ten Cold pattern-related items. 16 The SF-PPQ is rated on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = disagree very strongly; 2 = disagree strongly; 3 = disagree; 4 = neither agree nor disagree; 5 = agree; 6 = agree strongly; and 7 = agree very strongly). One item on the SF-PPQ was related to drinking; since it was inappropriate for the students, this item was excluded. Therefore, a total of 13 items were presented to the participants. On the CHPQ, both Heat pattern items and Cold pattern items were considered in the pathway analysis; this procedure was followed since Heat and Cold patterns are known to be paired and reciprocal with each other.<sup>17</sup> The CHPQ is rated on a dichotomous scale: 0 = disagree, 1 = agree. The total scores were summed on the 13-item SF-PPQ items, and the 10-item CHPQ. Higher SF-PPQ, and Heat and Cold scores of the CHPQ indicate severer conditions of the corresponding pathological patterns.

# Korean version of the general health questionnaire (K-GHQ)

The K-GHQ is the Korean version of the original version of the general health questionnaire-30. The GHQ has been previously validated, <sup>18</sup> and consists of 30 items. Each item on the K-GHQ is rated on a

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