

P43 Introducing the PQOLI-DI: Addressing the Gaps in quality of life measures for disabled populations

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Objective: Quality of life (QOL) is used to assess patient happiness and life satisfaction in healthcare as a means to inform patient care. However, existing measures often fail to reflect the experiences of disabled individuals accurately. Previous studies evaluating existing measures in a disabled population suggest the addition of questions addressing acceptance of disability and hope, sense of control, self-care, accessibility of social participation, and trust in the healthcare system (Avolio et al., 2013; Chen & Crewe, 2009; Crocker et al., 2021; Heijdra Suasnabar et al., 2024; Yoon et al., 2024). A proposed patient-centered change adds a qualitative element to allow for individualized and goal-based treatment, which is crucial in this population (Darabos et al., 2023; Holmes-Truscott et al., 2024; Seves et al., 2020). This study aims to develop and test a new QOL scale tailored to the needs of disabled individuals, incorporating insights from previous research and participant feedback.

Methods: Participants aged 18 and older with a disability were recruited via email from national disability organizations and the Fordham University Office of Disability Services; the study involved 44 predominantly female participants with diverse racial backgrounds. A new QOL scale was developed, consisting of 14 Likert scale questions with optional free-response sections encompassing five subscales: health, social and personal well-being, health optimism, access to resources, and attitudes towards healthcare.

Results: Thematic analysis was done on all free responses from the scale, and a question was asked about participants' experience with the scale. Utilizing this data, the scale was refined; further research will focus on reliability and validity testing.

Conclusions: This study underscores the importance of QOL measures that more accurately capture the experiences of disabled individuals, which, in turn, can facilitate better communication between patients and healthcare providers.