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Linguistic translation and validation of the Sinhala version of International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS Si): Evidence of equality to original American English version

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The International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS) serves as the only objective assessment of patients with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). A Sinhala version of IPSS (IPSS Si) is not currently available. Validation of a linguistically translated culturally adapted Sinhala version of the IPSS is mandatory before using it among Sri Lankans. A Sinhala version of IPSS was created and its validity and reliability were studied in 54 patients with BPH and 54 subjects without BPH as the control group. Validity was assessed by construct validity and discriminatory power. Construct validity was assessed by correlating IPSS Si total score (based on its first 7 items) with item 8 on quality of life in the IPSS. Discriminatory power was assessed by calculating the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve. Reliability was assessed by the test-retest method using interclass correlation coefficient and internal consistency using Cronbach's alpha. Sensitivity to change was assessed in an additional 10 patients who underwent alpha blocker therapy with BPH using mean IPSS total in pre intervention versus post intervention scores.

The Spearman rank correlation of the total score with item 8 of the IPSS Si was 0.918 ($p < 001$) compared to that of the IPSS Am, which was 0.77. ROC area for the whole instrument was 0.978 ± 0.013 (IPSS Am = 0.85 ± 0.03). Using a total cutoff value of 7, sensitivity was 81.5% and specificity was 98.1%. The inter-class correlation coefficient was 0.99 (IPSS Am = 0.92) and Cronbach's alpha was 0.872 (IPSS Am = 0.86). Mean pre intervention and post intervention IPSS Si total scores were 23.5 and 11.9, respectively with a mean difference of 11.6. The Sinhala version of IPSS Si is valid and it demonstrated similar properties to the original IPSS.

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