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**Abstract Title:** Embracing the Complexity of Religion in Relation to Spiritual Wellbeing (SWB): Findings from the International Validation Study of the EORTC QLQ-SWB32

### Author Information

Author List: **1. Presenting Author :** Bella Vivat  
**2. Additional Author :** Teresa Young  
**3. Additional Author :** Julie Winstanley  
**4. Additional Author :** Juan Arraras  
**5. Additional Author :** Kath Black  
**6. Additional Author :** Anne Bredart  
**7. Additional Author :** Fran Boyle  
**8. Additional Author :** Anna Costantini  
**9. Additional Author :** Jingbo Guo  
**10. Additional Author :** M. Elisa Irarrazaval  
**11. Additional Author :** Kunihiro Kobayashi  
**12. Additional Author :** Renske Kruizinga  
**13. Additional Author :** Mariana Navarro  
**14. Additional Author :** Sepideh Omidvari  
**15. Additional Author :** Gudrun Rohde  
**16. Additional Author :** Samantha Serpentine  
**17. Additional Author :** Nigel Spry  
**18. Additional Author :** Hanneke van Laarhoven  
**19. Additional Author :** Grace Yang

### User Information

**User/Submitter Name:** Bella Vivat

**User/Submitter Email:** [bellavivat@live.co.uk](mailto:bellavivat@live.co.uk)

**Correspondent:** Yes

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**Primary Application** Design and testing of measurement approaches - ( Patient-centered outcomes / Patient-reported experience measures )

**Secondary Application:** **Conditions:**  
Cancer

**Populations:**  
Patients  
Vulnerable populations

**Uploaded Files:** No uploads.

## Abstract Information

- Presentation Format: Oral ( Consider for Poster )
- Abstract Title: Embracing the Complexity of Religion in Relation to Spiritual Wellbeing (SWB): Findings from the International Validation Study of the EORTC QLQ-SWB32
- Aims: The EORTC QLQ-SWB32 – a spiritual wellbeing (SWB) measure for palliative cancer patients – was validated in 2012-14 with 451 participants in 14 countries, alongside the EORTC QLQ-PAL-C15 (PAL) – a previously validated version of the EORTC QLQ-C30 for palliative patients. Together with other sociodemographic data, we asked this opportunistic sample for their religious or spiritual beliefs (including none). However, the main validation analysis did not examine these in detail. This paper reports on a subsequent study which investigated relationships between self-identified religious faiths and measure response data.
- Methods: The main validation study identified four multi-item scales (RSG – Relationship with someone/something greater; RS – Relationship with self; RO – Relationship with others; EX – Existential). Mean scores on these scales and the global SWB item (G-SWB) weakly-moderately correlated with mean scores for the PAL global QL and scales. This subsequent analysis explored SWB and PAL response data for those participants with any named religion. We converted raw sum scores to a 0-100 score, and calculated mean scores for SWB scales and G-SWB, plus correlations between mean scores on the two tools.
- Results: Mean G-SWB scores were higher for participants with a named religion (71.7 vs. 55.5 for all participants;  $p < 0.0001$ ), and similar across the three largest named religions (Buddhist ( $n=21$ ): 64.3; Christian ( $n=181$ ): 73.3; and Muslim ( $n=48$ ): 72.2). Mean scores on the RSG scale were also higher for named religions (71.9 vs. 38.6 for all participants;  $p < 0.0001$ ), as would be expected, but we found significant differences between specific religions: mean RSG scores were lowest for Buddhists (50.6 vs. 72.7 (Christians) and 80.8 (Muslims);  $p < 0.0001$ ). Significant differences were also found for named religions on one other SWB scale: mean RS scores were lowest for Muslims (43.2 vs. 58.4 (Christians) and 65.2 (Buddhists);  $p < 0.0001$ ). Correlations between mean scores on the PAL Emotional Functioning scale and for G-SWB and the RO scale for participants with named religions were still weak, but very slightly stronger ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- Conclusions: SWB is sometimes simply equated with religion, but our multilingual cross-cultural study shows that the relationship between SWB and religion is complex.