

(101.5) Is there a relationship between spiritual wellbeing (SWB) and QOL? Findings from international validation of the EORTC QLQ-SWB32

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AIMS: The EORTC Quality of Life Group has developed a spiritual wellbeing (SWB) measure for palliative cancer patients; the EORTC QLQ-SWB32. Data collection for measure validation was completed in 2013, and analysis is ongoing. One element of the analysis explored relationships between participants' responses to the provisional 36-item SWB measure and to the EORTC QLQ-PAL-C15 ("PAL")—a validated version of the EORTC QLQ-C30 for palliative care.

METHODS: Study documents were translated as needed. Participants completed the provisional SWB measure and PAL, then participated in debriefing interviews. We analysed response data in two groups: all participants ("A") and a subset of those with a religious faith: "believers" ("B"). We conducted PCA analysis with Oblimin rotation, plus Rasch analysis, on 35 of the 36 SWB items (the 36th was a global SWB score), and identified four scales. We examined relationships between responses to these scales; the global SWB score; and PAL scales/items.

RESULTS: Participants—451 in all; 368 in subset B—came from 14 countries: Australia, Austria, Chile, China, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain and UK. The four scales identified were Relationship with Self (RS) (5 items); Relationships with Others (RO) (6 items); Existential (EX) (5 items); and Relationship with Something Greater (RSG) [5 items for all participants, plus one single-item scale for "believers": Relationship with God (RG)]. A further ten non-scoring items were also retained for the final 32-item tool. The global SWB item only very weakly correlated with the PAL Emotional Functioning (EF) scale and the PAL global QOL item. The RSG scoring scale did not correlate with either, and the RO scale only weakly. The RS scale moderately correlated with the PAL EF scale (Spearman's Rho coefficient for both A and B = .435**), and only weakly with the PAL global QOL. The EX scale moderately correlated with both the PAL global QOL (A .499**; B .528**), and PAL EF scale (A .406; B .443**).

CONCLUSIONS: This new EORTC measure of SWB extends QOL beyond that identified by the PAL, tapping a distinct construct for palliative care patients both with and without religious faith.