

Cross-cultural adaptation of the Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH) Questionnaire: Aspects to consider

Susan de Klerk¹, Helen Buchanan², Christina Jerosch-Herold³

¹*Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa*, ²*University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa*, ³*University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK*

Introduction: The Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand Questionnaire (DASH) is an evaluative and discriminative region specific patient rated outcome measure (PROM) used by occupational therapists in the field of therapy to the upper limb. The DASH measures symptoms, and aspects of activity and participation as outlined in the nine domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, in patients with upper limb musculoskeletal conditions. This well researched instrument was developed in English in the developed context of Canada. The Institute for Work and Health provide clear guidelines for the process of cross-cultural translation and adaptation.

Objectives: The objectives of this oral presentation are: 1) to outline the process of cross-cultural translation and adaptation of the DASH and; 2) to highlight important consideration when cross-culturally translating and adapting PROMs such as the DASH.

Method: The process of forward and backward translation, as well as the practice of cognitive interviewing in questionnaire design will be discussed. Aspects of semantic, idiomatic, experiential and conceptual equivalence will be considered.

Results and Conclusion: The DASH (and any PROM), has to be cross-culturally translated and adapted prior to use and psychometric testing thereof in a different culture and context to the one in which it was developed. By cross-culturally adapting PROMs such as the DASH, the instrument can continue to investigate the construct(s) of interest in the new culture and context. This creates measures that are equivalent, irrespective of country, culture, language and occupations.