

Article

Cross-Cultural Validation of the Portuguese Version of the Quality of Oncology Nursing Care Scale

Pedro Gomes ¹, Susana Ribeiro ^{1,*}, Marcelle Silva ^{1,2}, Paulo Cruchinho ¹, Elisabete Nunes ¹,
Carla Nascimento ¹ and Pedro Lucas ¹

¹ Nursing Research, Innovation and Development Centre of Lisbon (CIDNUR), Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa, 1600-190 Lisboa, Portugal; pedro.gomes@campus.esel.pt (P.G.); marcellemisufjr@gmail.com (M.S.); pjcruhinho@esel.pt (P.C.); enunes@esel.pt (E.N.); carla.nascimento@esel.pt (C.N.); prlucas@esel.pt (P.L.)

² Escola de Enfermagem Anna Nery, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro 20211-130, Brazil

* Correspondence: susanasantos@esel.pt

Simple Summary: Patients are the center and focus of care delivery, but frequently, their perceptions are overlooked. Patients are vital to promoting optimal oncology nursing care and should be considered in order to provide patient-centered holistic care. The Quality of Oncology Nursing Care Scale was translated and validated cross-culturally for the Portuguese context. In Portugal, there is no instrument that evaluates the quality of nursing care provided to cancer patients, so our study fills this major gap in the scientific evidence. This scale should be used by nurses, nurse managers, and researchers that strive to improve patient, nurse, and organizational outcomes.

Abstract: Background: Quality assessment in oncology nursing care has been a growing topic in the literature, gaining relevance as oncological nursing care becomes more complex as the science progresses. However, there are no instruments that assess the perception of the quality of oncology nursing care from the point of view of patients for the Portuguese population. Thus, the cross-cultural translation and validation of the Quality of Oncology Nursing Care Scale (QONCS) was performed for the Portuguese context. This instrument allows nurses to assess patients' self-perception of the quality of nursing care provided in an oncological setting. It also allows researchers to compare the results obtained internationally with the application of this scale. Methods: This is a methodological study, with two distinct phases: the first corresponded to the translation and cultural adaptation of the scale to the Portuguese context, and the second consisted of the psychometric validation of the QONCS, which included factor analysis and the evaluation of the psychometric properties of the instrument. We obtained responses from 402 patients from a Portuguese oncology hospital. Results: The Portuguese version of the Quality of Oncology Nursing Care Scale (QONCS_PT) consists of 34 items inserted into a tetra-factorial model, which explains a total variance of the instrument of 69.8%. A Cronbach's alpha of 0.93 was obtained for the complete instrument. Conclusions: QONCS_PT has a competent and reliable structure. The scale's validity was assured and can be used in the Portuguese population, as it is useful for direct care provision but also for researchers and managers.

Keywords: oncology nursing; quality of healthcare; health management; psychometrics; validation study



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1. Introduction

In Europe, cancer is the second-most-common cause of death and morbidity, with more than 3.7 million new cases and 1.9 million deaths reported every year [1]. Cancer care has consistently become more specialized as the science advances, with oncology nurses striving to ensure the safe delivery of cancer treatments, optimize patient's quality of life, coordinate nursing care delivery, improve outcomes, and mitigate cancer's impact