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Development and validation of risk assessment tool for colorectal cancer screening in North West of Iran

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Background and Aim: Although the early diagnosis of colorectal cancer reduces the associated death burden, administration of screening programs is not a common practice even in developed countries. Previous studies showed the lack of national screening programs for CRC in Iran with little information available on the screening strategies for cancer, in general. The main aim of our study is to develop and validate a simple, practical and efficient tool to improve CRC risk assessment by identifying the high and moderate risk of the disease.

Material and Methods: We used the NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) guidelines, because of full details about colorectal cancer risk assessments. The original risk assessment tool was translated from English into Persian. The back-translation method was performed, as the preferred method to measure. For the content validity, we performed a scientific panel of judges, comprised 5 medical oncologists, 3 gastroenterologists, and 2 epidemiologists. The proportion of experts who were in agreement with item relevance calculated as a quantitative measure of content validity, the CVI. The questionnaires were collected and content validity ratio (CVR) was calculated for each item. The questionnaire was assessed for face validity by 15 individuals to assess its acceptable and understandable for them.

Results: The experts evaluated every item and rated them for understandability, distinctiveness, appropriateness to the domain of content, and relatedness to Iranian population. Based on experts' opinion about necessity and completeness of each item, the acceptable CVR was between 1 and 0.40. Afterward, CVI was calculated to be 1 to 0.70. Moreover, the means of CVR and CVI were 0.62 and 0.93 respectively for whole the questionnaire items. Changes were made according to experts' recommendations, and final revised questionnaire assessed for face validity. Based on participants' comments, a few items needed to some modifications and expansion.

Discussion: The development of an executive plan to identify the most appropriate screening method and the best age group for screening and a specific risk assessment tool is the main priority in Iran.

Keywords: Colorectal Cancer; Risk Assessment; Validity

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