

49TH ANNUAL NURSING RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE CONFERENCE

August 20-21, 2018 Tokyo, Japan

Psychometric properties of the Chinese version of the symptom status questionnaire-heart failure

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Background: Patients with Heart Failure (HF) experience physical symptoms and poor Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL). Physical symptoms are associated with QOL. A valid instrument to assess symptoms of patients with HF would be useful for comparison of groups and for illness assessment and intervention. The Symptom Status Questionnaire-Heart Failure (SSQ-HF), a convenient, reliable and valid instrument for evaluating symptoms in patients with HF has not been validated in China.

Purpose: To examine the psychometric properties of the symptom status questionnaire-heart failure in Chinese with HF.

Method: The Chinese version was translated using translation and back-translation. The cross-sectional study of 180 patients was designed to evaluate the validities and reliabilities. Participants were asked to complete 3 instruments including Chinese version of MSAS-HF, English version of the SSQ-HF and Chinese version of the Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire (MLHFQ) as the criteria of criterion-related validity and factorial validity, internal consistency reliability.

Results: The SSQ-HF demonstrated acceptable internal consistency (Cronbach's α of 0.70). The correlation ($r=0.43-0.68$) between items and the scale provided further evidence of internal consistency. There was acceptable criterion validity with significantly high correlations (varying from 0.70 to 0.82) between the SSQ-HF and the criteria. Principal component analysis revealed 2 factors which is different from the original scale.

Conclusion: The Chinese version of the SSQ-HF appeared to be a valid and reliable instrument and was considered ready for use in the routine screening of patients with HF.

Biography

Qing Tong Meng is a postgraduate in West China Hospital, Sichuan University, majoring in Cardiovascular Nursing. She devotes her energy to help patients with chronic heart failure to alleviate liquid retention. She always treats it as her greatest responsibility to promote nursing development.

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