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Translation and Validation of A Stroke Specific Quality of Life Scale in Hindi: A Study Protocol

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Introduction: Stroke is an important global health risk that contributes to a high rate of mortality and long-term disability.The health-related quality of life of 60–70% of stroke survivors can be significantly impacted by stroke. A reliable instrument for assessing the psychological, social, and physical effects of stroke is the Stroke-Specific Quality of Life Scale (SS-QOL). Despite being available in several languages, it is unavailable in Hindi, a crucial language for the Indian population.

Need of the study: This gap needs to be address to assess the health-related quality of life of stroke survivors for Hindi-speaking populations.

Aim: The aim of the study is to translate, perform cross-cultural adaptation and validate the SS-QOL scale in Hindi language.

Materials and Methods: The scale will be translated into Hindi using a systematic procedure. Permission will be obtained from the esteemed authors who developed the original SS-QOL scale. Beaton's guidelines will be followed for the translation process. All the steps; forward translation, synthesis, backward translation, expert panel review, pretesting, content validation, and cross-cultural adaptation will be executed sequentially. Professionals from both medical and nonmedical backgrounds will be involved at different stages of the process. The Delphi technique will be employed, utilising a panel of experts to review each step and question to ensure the translated questionnaire is error-free. The technique will also calculate the Item-level Content Validity Index, Scale-level Content Validity Index Average, and Scale-level Content Validity Index Universal scores. To ensure cultural appropriateness, a prefinal version will be tested on Hindi-speaking stroke patients to assess its comprehensibility. Test-retest reliability will be evaluated using Bland-Altman plots and ICCs.

Keywords: Stroke, Quality of life, Language, Delphi Technique, Cross cultural adaptation