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

Need for this study: The translated version of SSQOL will provide an essential tool to assess and address the health-related quality of life of Hindi-speaking stroke survivors.

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 SSQOL 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 non-medical 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 Individual Content Validity Index (I-CVI), Scale Content Validity Index/Average (S-CVI/Ave), and SCVI/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 Intraclass Correlation Coefficents (ICCs).

Keywords: Cross cultural adaptation, Delphi technique, Language.