

A secondary analysis of the cross-cultural validation of multi-dimensional postpartum health PROMs, and suggestions for improving their validity and administration

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Objective

- › The global burden of maternal morbidity and mortality have been largely attributed to health issues experienced in the postpartum period.
- › Postpartum patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) provide insight into women’s experiences and health status after receiving maternal health interventions or treatment. Special considerations should be given to cultural validation and localization of multi-dimensional PROMs prior to administration – especially due to varying beliefs, rituals, and systems surrounding the postpartum period.^{1 & 2}

- › A content analysis summarized recommendations for improving cross-cultural validity and administration.
- › Recommendations were proposed to support the collection of cultural differences.

Results

Figure 1: Identification of systematic reviews evaluating multi-dimensional PROMs for the postpartum population

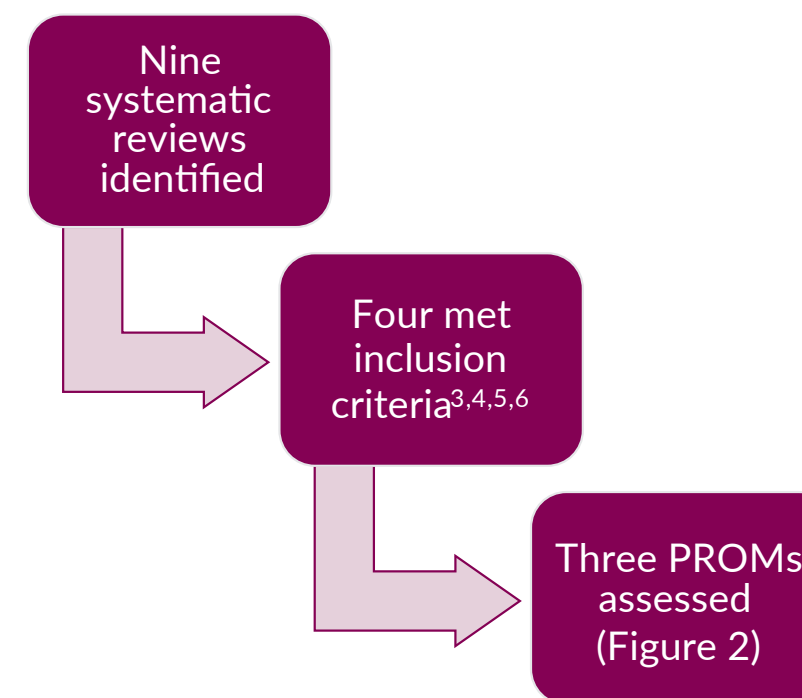
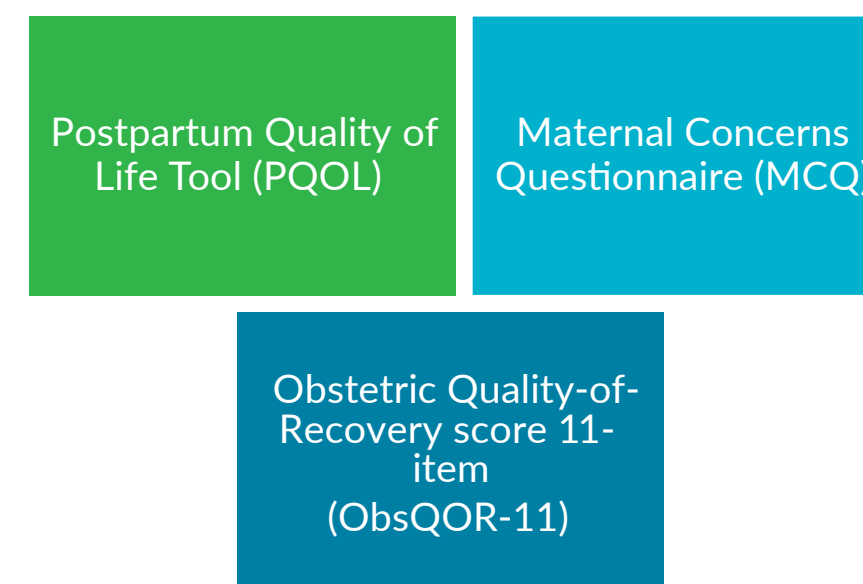


Figure 2: Three PROMs recommended for comprehensive assessment of multiple domains of postpartum health across four systematic reviews.



Conclusions

- › There is limited cross-cultural validation/adaptation of postpartum PROMs despite the global burden of postpartum morbidity and mortality. A further focus capturing cultural differences in beliefs, and meaning of postpartum treatment, recovery, and health should be added to the ISPOR guidelines⁷ for translation and cultural adaption.
- › The varying nature of global beliefs and systems surrounding the postpartum period calls for specific considerations for validation and localizing existing PROMs.

Purpose

- › The study had two aims:
 1. to summarize evidence on cross-cultural validation of postpartum patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)
 2. to provide recommendation to improve measurement of cultural differences in global administration

Methods

- › An assessment of cross-cultural validation of the most suitable PROMs designed for the postpartum population was conducted.
- › The PubMed database was searched using the terms: ‘postpartum’, ‘patient-reported outcomes’, and ‘systematic review’ in the title/abstract. Reviews evaluating unidimensional domains of postpartum health (e.g., pain, sleep, etc.) were excluded.

Table 1: Additional considerations for the cultural validation and administration of postpartum PROMs

Additional considerations for the cultural validation and administration for postpartum PROMs
› Seek adequate representation of cultural/ethnic backgrounds during expert review, cognitive debriefing, and pilot testing. Include experienced anthropologists/behavioral scientists.
› The perspective of local midwives and doulas are just as valuable as that of clinicians. Recognize that bio-medicine may be in contrast to local beliefs.
› Consider the role of the power dynamics between study administrator/team and patient

REFERENCES

