HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE (HRQL) SPECIFIC TO VIRAL HEPATITIS C: PROQOL-HCV

Conclusion

Methods

In this cross-sectional study 660 HCV mono-infected and HCV/HIV co-infected patients, in three countries (France [59%], Brazil [30%], and Australia [11%]), completed paper or internet-based versions of: two existing HRQL questionnaires, and the PROQOL-HCV pilot. Information concerning symptoms, sociodemographic and clinical status were also collected. Psychometric item analysis and factor analysis (CFA) reduced the pilot 72-item PROQOL-HCV questionnaire. Next, reliability (Cronbach’s alpha), convergent validity (EQ-5D, SF-12, symptoms), and clinical validity (biological markers) were assessed using correlation and two-group comparison at a fixed 5% level. Statistical analysis were carried out using the R and Mplus software.

Results

The sample comprised 57 men and 43 women, aged on average 52 years, 80% vocational level and higher, 35% lived alone, 35% were co-infected with HIV (95% treated); 85% receiving anti-viral treatment: 25% interferon, 35% ribavirin, 43% Direct-Acting Antivirals (35% interferon-free); 27% depressive (71% treated). [Table 1]

The PROQOL-HCV questionnaire was reduced to 38 items spanning 7 dimensions scored on a 100-point scale. Physical Health (PH), Emotional Health (EH), and Treatment Impact (TI) dimensions had poor construct validity and were discarded. [Table 2] Pearson correlations of PROQOL-HCV dimensions with the EQ-5D (general health), SF-12 mental and physical summary scores were in the acceptable range. [Table 2] PH dimension was negatively correlated with frequency of bothersome symptoms (p < 0.001).

Figure 1: Distribution of scale scores (mean ± 1 SE) across countries.

Lower HRQL (PH, EH, CF) was reported by women (p < 0.01) [Figure 1], depressive patients (p < 0.001), patients on interferon (p < 0.01, except CF), and untreated patients (p < 0.01).

Conclusion

The PROQOL-HCV questionnaire demonstrates validity and encompasses new dimensions of Intimate Relationships, Social Health and Treatment Impact.