

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation is to design a characteristic questionnaire for COPD patient that is based on paper research, clinician diagnosis, visiting patients, focus group and modified Taiwan simple version of WHOQOL-BREF to assess critical information about quality of life in patients with COPD. This study is performed by visiting COPD patients with designed questionnaire, and then to estimate their quality of life. This investigation is performed from October, 1999 to May, 2000 including three stages and all samples are derived from four doctors in China Medical College Hospital. At first stage, to define the quality of life and the presumable suffering time of COPD patients by visiting fifteen samples with Taiwan simple version of WHOQOL-BREF as the preliminary study. At second stage, the writer designs ten new disease-specific questions of COPD that are derived from paper research, implications in focus group of COPD patients and clinicians and some experiences from preliminary study. Finally, the new modified questionnaire including Taiwan simple version of WHOQOL-BREF plus 10 new questions are used in this study and total visiting samples are sixty-two male patients with COPD. According to the four domains of Cronbach's Alpha (including physical, psychical, social and environmental), the analysis of reliability that derived from disease-specific questionnaire of COPD are 0.74, 0.77, 0.78, 0.64 respectively, and the total internal consistence is 0.91. In the aspect of test-retest, the investigator does the second test to the 21 patients within two to four weeks and the range of correlation is from 0.50 to 0.98. In the part of validity, the result of content validity, criterion validity, discrimination validity and construct validity is quite well. The factor of the exploratory factor analysis of the construct validity not only responds to the four domains of WHOQOL-BREF but also could be explained in 54% of total variation. By the analysis of the path analysis, the multi-regression analysis and the self-estimation, the result reveals the truth that the physical domain plays the most important role of all. Obviously, it also can be found that the psychological domain of the patients of COPD concerns about the quality of their life. Therefore, the clinician in addition to improve their physical problems, they must concern and construct the patients' psychological problems. To improve the quality of the patients' life is the utmost work.

Key words: COPD, WHOQOL-BREF, QOL, focus group