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Title

The RTSQ (Renal Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire): A condition-specific measure of satisfaction with treatment for End-Stage Renal Failure.

Purpose of Study

Quality and effectiveness of care can be enhanced through the use of condition-specific measures of satisfaction with treatment. The RTSQ (Renal Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire) is a measure of satisfaction with treatment, modified from the Diabetes-specific DTSQ. The RTSQ is designed to be suitable for people using different treatment modalities for ESRF. Items measure satisfaction with aspects of treatment including convenience, flexibility, freedom, and whether one would be satisfied to continue present treatment.

Method

The RTSQ was investigated at a U.K. hospital-based renal unit, using data from 140 outpatients undergoing renal replacement therapy (haemodialysis, N = 35; CAPD, N = 59; transplant, N = 46).

Results

An 11-item scale was developed from the original 12-item version, with a single factor accounting for 58% of the variance and item loadings ranging between 0.65 and 0.86. Scale reliability was excellent (alpha coefficient = 0.93), and proved robust to analysis in separate treatment modalities. RTSQ scores also differed significantly ($p < 0.05$), as expected, between transplant and other treatment groups; with greater overall satisfaction scores for those treated by transplants, and specific advantages of transplant shown by the individual items: convenience, time, lifestyle, freedom and satisfaction to continue current treatment.

Conclusion

The RTSQ provides a reliable, brief measure of satisfaction with treatment for ESRF that is suitable for use in routine clinical care and clinical trials.

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