International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire Vaginal Symptoms Module (ICIQ-VS)

Summary

The ICIQ-VS is a brief and psychometrically robust patient-completed questionnaire for evaluating vaginal symptoms, associated sexual matters and impact on quality of life (QoL) in research and clinical practice across the world. The ICIQ-VS provides a brief and robust measure to assess the impact of vaginal symptoms on outcome and is scored on a scale from 0-53 for vaginal symptoms, 0-58 for sexual matters associated with vaginal symptoms and 0-10 for impact on quality of life associated with vaginal symptoms. This short and simple questionnaire will be of use to general practitioners and clinicians in both primary and secondary care institutions to screen for vaginal dysfunction, to obtain a brief yet comprehensive summary of the level and impact of vaginal symptoms and to facilitate patient-clinician discussions. It is also an ideal research tool. The Third International Consultation on Incontinence recommended that all randomised trials evaluating treatments for incontinence use high quality questionnaires, in particular the ICIQ, to assess impact on patient outcome and facilitate comparisons. The ICIQ-VS provides a brief and robust measure for this purpose, as well as in epidemiological surveys, particularly when more than one measure is being used.

Patient population

The ICIQ-VS is relevant for use in women, young and old, from all patient groups, including clinic and community populations, across the world.

Time to complete

A few minutes

Development

Studies were undertaken to evaluate the psychometric properties of the ICIQ-VS following standard methods of psychometric testing, including content validity, construct validity stability (test-retest reliability), internal consistency and responsiveness to change following treatment. The ICIQ-VS has been shown to be robust and psychometrically sound in studies in the UK.

Reliability

As above

Validity

As above

Responsiveness

As above

Distribution

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The scoring system is clearly stated on the questionnaire. If any researchers or clinicians wish to use the ICIQ-VS, the authors ask to be informed of the details of the study and any results that are presented or published. The ICIQ-VS will be translated into a number of languages other than UK-English using standard methods for international adaptation. If any researchers wish to be involved in the translation or psychometric testing of alternative

language versions of the ICIQ-VS, or would like to enquire about available translations, please contact Nikki Gardener (details above). The authors ask that no data from studies to validate alternative language versions of the ICIQ-VS be published without prior consent.

Reference

Submitted for publication.

Price N, Jackson SR, Avery K, Brookes ST, Abrams P. Development and psychometric evaluation of the ICIQ Vaginal Symptoms Questionnaire: the ICIQ-VS. *BJOG* 2006; 113(6): 700-12.

Other references:

Avery K, Donovan J, Peters T, Shaw C, Gotoh M, & Abrams P. ICIQ: a brief and robust measure for evaluating the symptoms and impact of urinary incontinence. *Neurourol.Urodyn.* 2004; 23(4):322-30.

Gardener N, Avery K, Abrams P & Norton C. Metods of development of a symptom and quality of life measure for bowel symptoms: ICIQ-BS. *Neurourol.Urodyn.* 2005; 100. (Abstract).

Donovan J., Bosch JLHR., Gotoh M., et al. 2005. Symptom and quality of life assessment. In: Abrams P, Cardozo L, Khoury S, Wein A, eds. Incontinence, Third ed. Plymouth: Health Publication Ltd, 2005. 519-584.

Miscellaneous

In addition to the ICIQ-VS, the development and psychometric testing of the modular ICIQ questionnaire is being undertaken, in an effort to produce an internationally accepted series of questionnaires for research and clinical use. The ICIQ is intended to be fully comprehensive for incontinence and related lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS). Condition-specific short form questionnaires (for screening and epidemiological studies) and long form questionnaires (for further investigation) are being developed for seven core conditions: urinary incontinence, other urinary symptoms, bowel incontinence, other bowel symptoms, vaginal symptoms (ICIQ-VS), overactive bladder and nocturia. Long form modules will also include items to assess condition-specific quality of life (QoL), general QoL and condition-specific sexual matters. Finally, there will be post-treatment modules to assess outcome, including patient satisfaction, expectations and complications arising from treatment. Please refer to copies of the individual modules for further details and also www.iciq.net which is being developed as the project progresses.

The ICIQ-VS is primarily intended for vaginal symptoms' research, to form part of the standard investigative protocol at baseline and follow-up in prevalence studies, clinical trials and investigative studies of symptoms or QoL. The ICIQ-VS will also provide a robust measure for use in randomised trials evaluating treatments for vaginal symptoms in order to assess their impact on patient outcome. Investigators will be able to select particular modules or domains for use independently or together as the objectives of each study requires. Its simple and robust nature will also make the ICIQ-VS an ideal tool for use in community and clinic populations in routine clinical use, where further investigation of the level of symptoms, their perceived cause and impact on QoL is required.

Descriptors

Questionnaire, vaginal symptoms, quality of life, patient, outcome measure