

00457 Cross-cultural Adaptation of the Hamilton Axial Spondyloarthritis Questionnaire and Development of a Chinese Version in a Multi-ethnic Urban Asian Population

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Aims: To cross-culturally adapt the Hamilton axial spondyloarthritis screening questionnaire English version and develop a Chinese version for use in a multi-ethnic urban Asian population in Singapore.

Methodology: Consenting participants newly referred to a rheumatology specialist outpatient clinic for evaluation of possible axial spondyloarthritis were studied. Cognitive debriefings using the original axial spondyloarthritis questionnaire were conducted with English-speaking participants, with modifications made based on their input and in discussion with an expert panel and the questionnaire developer. Forward and back translations of the adapted English version were reviewed by the expert panel and the questionnaire developer. The common translation produced was tested in cognitive debriefings with Chinese-speaking participants. Both adapted English and Chinese versions were pilot tested in a separate group of newly referred patients.

Result: A total of 25 and 15 participants were recruited for English and Chinese cognitive debriefings respectively. Chinese-speaking participants were relatively older and were less frequently presented with a symptom than English-speaking participants. Alternative terms and explanatory notes were added to difficult medical terms to improve the understandability of the original questionnaire. English medical terms were retained in the Chinese translation. Pilot testing of the adapted axial spondyloarthritis questionnaires was performed on 116 participants. Only 1 participant was diagnosed with axial SpA. He scored positive on the adapted axial SpA questionnaire.

Conclusion: The axial spondyloarthritis questionnaire was cross-culturally adapted into Singapore English and Singapore Chinese. The adapted versions demonstrated comparable validity to the original axial spondyloarthritis questionnaire in the pilot testing and hence are promising tools for facilitating early identification of axial spondyloarthritis cases in Singapore.