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“Changes in Reliability when Assessing Multiple Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (CRAM-PROMs)”

Measurements in clinical research have experienced a shift from an objective, clinician-reported perspective towards a more subjective patient-oriented perspective. As clinicians, we tend to base our daily clinical practice decisions on the best available evidence, and we assume that the information gathered by the various study instruments is consistent and accurate. These instruments need to be reliable and valid to achieve consistency and accuracy. These tests properties are known as psychometric properties. When psychometric properties of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) have been evaluated, they are typically assessed individually. However, in current clinical research, it is extremely common to administer multiple questionnaires at a single study timepoint to assess multiple study outcomes. However, it is uncertain if the psychometric properties of these instruments remain accurate and consistent when several questionnaires are administered at the same time. Our hypothesis is that there will be a progressive decay in psychometric properties, mainly because of a “boredom effect” as we increase the number of questionnaires applied to orthopaedic research participants. This could potentially impair clinical research data and thus, impact clinical research findings and its conclusions making this research project a significant initiative to improve future studies design.