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Psychometric Evaluation of a Hormone Deficiency-Specific Individualised Quality of life Questionnaire (HDQoL)

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Objectives: To evaluate a new questionnaire designed to measure individuals' perceptions of the impact of their hormonal condition on their quality of life (QoL), taking account of the importance of life domains relevant for the individual.

Design: The design of the HDQoL (Hormone Deficiency Dependent QoL) was based on that of the Audit of Diabetes Dependent QoL (ADDQoL) diabetes-specific individualised questionnaire. The HDQoL specifies life domains, and respondents rate personally applicable domains for importance and for impact of the hormonal condition.

Method: The HDQoL (and four other generic measures of health status and well-being) were completed by adults with treated or untreated growth hormone deficiency (GHD).

Results: Of the 18 domains, 13 were found to be relevant and important for patients with GHD. The shorter, 13-item version was found to have high reliability (Cronbach's alpha coefficient =.914)

Conclusion: Unlike other QoL measures, the HDQoL is an individualised questionnaire measure of the impact of hormone deficiency and its treatment on QoL. Reliability and content validity are established for adults with GHD.