

Measuring the impact of burn scarring on health-related quality of life: Development and content validation of the Brisbane Burn Scar Impact Profile (BBSIP) for children, young people and adults.

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Introduction

Burn scar outcomes have largely focused on physical symptoms. Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) is an important outcome that many health professionals strive to influence when treating burn scarring. No burn-scar specific HRQOL outcome measure currently exists. This study aimed to develop the content of a patient-reported, HRQOL measure to assess the impact of burn scarring in adults and children/young people and to undertake content validation.

Methods

Test development involved: semi-structured qualitative interviews of participants with burn scarring and experts in burn scar management, content validation surveys and, cognitive interviews (to test understanding of the content). Participants with a range of percent total body surface area burns and Fitzpatrick skin types were included.

Results

Participants included adults (n = 23) and children/young people (n = 19) who had burn scarring; caregivers of children with burn scarring (n = 28); and international burns experts (n = 14). Test items were developed based on unique aspects of the impact of burn scars on HRQOL reported by participants: physical and sensory symptoms, emotional reactions, social functioning, daily activities, environmental factors, and treatment. Four versions of the new measure (Brisbane Burn Scar Impact Profile) were developed: one for children/young people aged 8 to 18 years, one for adults, one for caregivers (as proxies for children aged less than 8-years) and one for caregivers of children/young people, 8 to 18 years. Initial content validity was supported.

Conclusion

A new measure with preliminary validation is available to assess changes in burn-scar specific HRQOL.

Key Words

Hypertrophic scar; outcome assessment; quality of life; patient reported outcomes; qualitative research; children

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