Dutch Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA): training improves scores for comprehensibility and difficulty

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\textbf{Rationale:}

The Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) is a validated instrument to assess and monitor malnutrition. The PG-SGA consists of both patient-reported and professional-reported items. A professional should be able to correctly interpret all items. Untrained professionals may experience difficulty in completing some items of the PG-SGA.

\textbf{Aim:}

To explore changes in perceived comprehensibility and difficulty of the Dutch PG-SGA by health care professionals on use of the instrument, before and after training.

\textbf{Methods:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item N=36 untrained health care professionals, of which 34 dietitians
  \item Instrument: 29 items on 4-point scale regarding comprehensibility and difficulty of PG-SGA
  \item T0: two weeks before instructional session
  \item T1: directly after instructional session on PG-SGA and training with physical exam
  \item Summarized comprehensibility indexes (SCI) and difficulty indexes (SDI) calculated for:
    - patient part of PG-SGA (PG-SGA SF)
    - professional part of PG-SGA (PG-SGA\textsubscript{pro})
    - full PG-SGA
  \item Cut off values: SCI≥0.80 and SDI≥0.80 = acceptable; SCI≥0.90 and SDI≥0.90 = excellent
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Results:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item Acceptable SCI of the PG-SGA SF both before (SCI: 0.80) and after training (SCI: 0.89)
  \item SCI of the PG-SGA\textsubscript{pro} and full PG-SGA changed from unacceptable (SCI: 0.64; 0.69) to excellent (SCI: 0.95; 0.94)
  \item All SDIs changed from unacceptable (SDI for respectively PG-SGA SF, PG-SGA\textsubscript{pro} and full PG-SGA: 0.71; 0.50; 0.57) to acceptable (SDI: 0.88; 0.85; 0.87)
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Conclusion:}

Training professionals in the use of the PG-SGA can be an effective strategy for improving the level of both comprehensibility and difficulty.

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