

Validation of autoimmune bullous diseases-specific quality questionnaires

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Introduction

Autoimmune bullous diseases (AIBDs) have a significant impact on the quality of life (QOL) and psychological status of patients. Patients with AIBDs often feel pain, itching, discomfort and it has a negative impact on sleep, mood. Due to skin damage, the person feels unattractive, repulsive, and therefore begins to avoid social contact with relatives and friends. Depression and anxiety have been reported to be more common among patients with AIBDs compared to the general population. The Dermatology life Quality Index (DLQI) is designed to measure the health-related QOL of adult patients suffering from a skin disease. After analyzing the research literature, ABQOL and TABQOL questionnaires were shown to be more sensitive than DLQI for the measurement of QOL of patients with AIBDs.

Aim

To perform the validation process on the Lithuanian version of the questionnaires related to the QOL of patients with AIBDs.

Material and methods

The Lithuanian version of the ABQOL (17 questions) and TABQOL (17 questions) questionnaires validation was performed in 3 stages (Fig.1). In the first stage the ABQOL and TABQOL were translated forward-backward the original French version. Second stage: the questionnaires were distributed to the patients with AIBDs for cross cultural adaptation. Third stage: the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to assess the credibility of questionnaires (Fig.1). The patients inclusion criteria were: at least 18 years of age, histological or serological confirmation of AIBDs diagnosis, signed consent form.

Results

A total of 10 patients with AIBDs were recruited between March 2019 and January 2020. The age of patients ranged from 18 to 60 years (mean 42,7). Most of the patients had pemphigus vulgaris (n=5), followed dermatitis herpetiformis Duhring (n=3) and pemphigus foliaceus (n=2) (Table 1). Patients completed the questionnaires quickly: the average time to finish the ABQOL questionnaire was 6.6 minutes and the TABQOL - 5.7 minutes. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for ABQOL and TABQOL questionnaires was 0.787 and 0.724 accordingly.

Conclusions

Adapted ABQOL and TABQOL questionnaires in Lithuanian language found to be suitable for the assessment of the QOL of patients with AIBDs: the study persons easily comprehended the questions and good internal consistency of questionnaires was estimated.

Key words: Autoimmune Bullous Diseases; ABQOL; TABQOL.

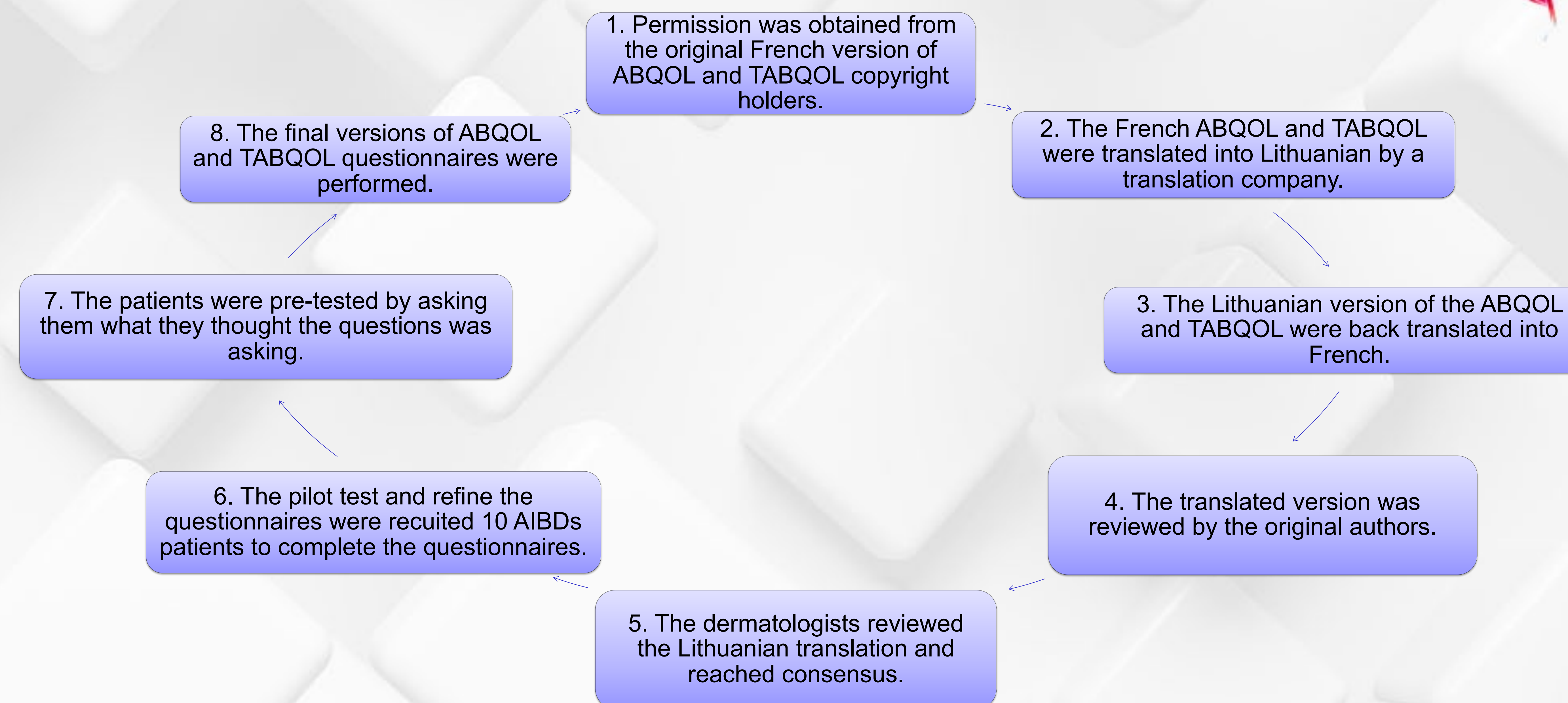


Figure 1. Steps used in validation of the Lithuanian version of the ABQOL and TABQOL questionnaires.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics and AIBDs of the patient cohort.

Variable	Value
Age (years), mean (range)	42,7 (18-60)
Sex, n (%)	
	Male 5 (50 %)
Autoimmune bullous disease, n (%)	
	<i>Pemphigus vulgaris</i> 5 (50 %)
	<i>Dermatitis herpetiformis</i> 3 (30 %)
	<i>Pemphigus foliaceus</i> 2 (20 %)