Questionnaires measuring quality of life and satisfaction of patients and their relatives in a palliative care setting—German translation of FAMCARE-2 and the palliative care subscale of FACIT-Pal

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Background: The evaluation of quality of life (QoL) and satisfaction with care in palliative care patients and their relatives is an important aspect of palliative care research, likewise important to get a direct feedback for the success of treatment. Here, questionnaires are important tools for measuring outcomes of care in medicine. Several validated, predominantly English, questionnaires already exist. These have been translated in different languages but German. The Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT) is an established tool for the evaluation of QoL in cancer patients. The FACIT-Pal, a 46-item-questionnaire of this group of questionnaires, measures the QoL in palliative care patients. It includes a new palliative care subscale which is not yet available in German. The FAMCARE-2, a 17-item-questionnaire, evaluates the relatives' satisfaction with the care and support they received from palliative care team.

Methods: The translation process followed a protocol including multiple independent translators as well as a forth and back translation.

Results: A German version of FAMCARE-2 and FACIT-Pal was translated based on the original questionnaire. Relevant differences between the English original versions and the back translations weren't revealed by the original scale developers.

Conclusions: The final versions of the German translations have been authorized by the scale developers. The FAMCARE-2 and the FACIT-Pal are now available in German and can be used for research and quality control purposes.

Keywords: Palliative care; quality of life (QoL); QoL questionnaire; satisfaction with care; FACIT-pal; FAMCARE-2

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Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as "an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with lifethreatening illness" (1).

Quality of life (QoL) itself cannot be uniquely defined as it composes for every individual differently depending on unique experiences and expectations. Thus QoL has to be defined individually for every person. Accordingly it remains challenging to transfer the idea of "QoL" to a concrete definition allowing collecting respective data sets for scientific interpretation.

The evaluation of QoL in a palliative care setting is a precondition for the establishment of high qualitative care procedures. Previous studies showed that the attending physicians' estimation of the patient's QoL differs from the patient's self-assessment (2).

In order to evaluate if measures and procedures achieve the goals of palliative care, a direct feedback of the concerned patient group is inevitable.

Several research teams already have composed questionnaires evaluating QoL to allow qualitative and quantitative analyses of different QoL aspects.

Examples are the QLQ-C15-PAL of the EORTC (European Organization for Research on Treatment of Cancer) Quality of Life Group (3), the McGill Quality of Life Questionnaire (MQoL) (4) as well as the FACIT-Pal (5-9) of the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT) group of questionnaires (10,11).

The respective questionnaires are currently only partially available in German limiting their application field to Anglophone areas.

The FACIT-Pal questionnaire is composed of 46 questions, 19 of those, concerning the palliative care subscale, were first published by Greisinger *et al.* (5). All FACIT questionnaires include a basic questionnaire assessing physical, social, emotional and functional status. The questionnaires are completed by specific subscales, in this case a palliative care subscale. As a result one receives a comprehensive picture of general aspects, covering a wide patient collective as well as specific aspects addressing selected patient groups. The basic questionnaire is available in German while the specific palliative care part is currently only available in Japanese, Portuguese and Malay.

Concerning the relatives' satisfaction with the provided

care there is a smaller variety of questionnaires available allowing a statistical assessment. Two examples are the Quality of End-of-Life care and Satisfaction with Treatment (QUEST) (12) and the FAMCARE-2 (13). Both questionnaires are currently not available in German. The FAMCARE-2 addresses the satisfaction with several palliative care aspects within 17 questions. Its previous version—FAMCARE—is widely established in surveys among relatives in Anglophone countries (14-17). In contrary to the FAMCARE, the FAMCARE-2 does not ask for the family's perception of a specific care taker's performance but for the perception of the care team's performance (13). It is applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings. The FAMCARE-2 is currently only available in English, Italian and Swedish.

Herein we introduce to the best of our knowledge for the first time in German the two key questionnaires FAMCARE-2 as well as the specific palliative care subscale of FACIT-Pal. The translations to German were performed with a structured methodology and finally authorized by the original scale developers. The questionnaires are currently in use in the PaRoLi study (Palliative Care in Rostock: Focus on Quality of Life) and are now available for scientific research in German speaking areas.

Methods

Initially the consent of the original scale developers was given to translate their questionnaires.

To achieve an adequate and internationally comparable version, the translation was performed according to the FACIT standard translation protocol (*Figure 1*) including several independent translators having extraordinary skills in English and German.

Initially the translation was performed by two individual translators from English to German. In the following a third translator unified both translations resulting in a single version. A fourth translator translated the obtained version back to English without knowing the original English template. The newly generated English version was sent to the developers of the original questionnaires for approval.

During the course of translation of FACIT-Pal the scale developers required an additional testing of the translated questionnaires of ten test patients. After the patients completed the questionnaire an additional "Patient Interview Form" was filled in by the participants.

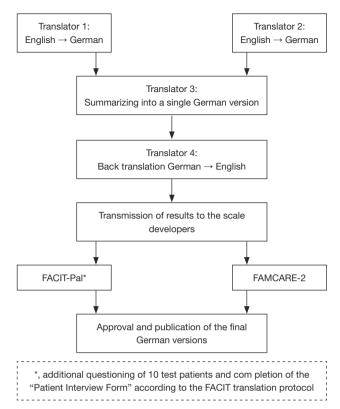


Figure 1 Translation process of the FACIT-Pal and the FAMCARE-2. The translation followed a structured translation protocol. First, translations from English into German were performed by two independent translators (see Translator 1 and 2). Translator 3 summarized both versions into one German version which was backtranslated by Translator 4 into English. Finally the versions were approved by the original scale developers.

This additional form asked for personal perceptions concerning questions, key words and understanding of the questionnaire. Further, some sentences had to be paraphrased. With special interest statements were analyzed, whether they were misunderstandable or inadequate. The completed translated questionnaires and the additional evaluating datasets were sent to the original FACIT-Pal developers.

As FAMCARE-2 does not require a standard translation protocol the questionnaire was translated as described for FACIT-Pal. The translation was not followed by an additional questioning of 10 persons. The final translated questionnaire was finally approved by the developers of the

original questionnaire.

Results

The translation was performed between March and May 2013. The German translations are displayed in the Figure 2 (FACIT-Pal—German translation) and Figure 3 (FAMCARE-2—German translation). For the full German version of the FACIT-PAL including the general FACIT questions which had been translated earlier, see supplement material (Figure S1). The original sense of the questions was not altered. The original scale developers did not find significant discrepancies between their original questionnaire and the newly generated back translated version.

Discussion

Herein we report the translation of two important questionnaires in palliative care and the trial versions authorized by the original questionnaire developers.

The utilization of questionnaires is key when complex trails as palliative care are to be evaluated in evidence based research approaches. Several international versions of the FACIT-Pal (8,18) and the FAMCARE-2 (19,20) proved as useful tools to evaluate and measure QoL of palliative care patients as well as the procedural care satisfaction of the accompanying relatives.

The translation of an established questionnaire requires more than simple direct wording translation. An additional adaption of the phrasing must be performed to ensure the conservation of the original meaning and structure.

Currently the QoL of inpatient and outpatient patients and their relatives is being evaluated within the PaRoLi study (21). Patients and relatives using the German questionnaire translation feel that the questionnaires are easily understandable and easily to be completed. The questionnaires were well accepted by the majority of the asked people.

Conclusions

The translated versions of FACIT-Pal and FAMCARE-2 can now be introduced in studies performed in German speaking areas.

FACIT-Pal (Version 4)

Bitte geben Sie jeweils an, wie sehr jede der folgenden Aussagen <u>im Laufe der letzten 7 Tage</u> auf Sie zugetroffen hat, indem Sie die entsprechende Zahl ankreuzen.

	ZUSÄTZLICHE FAKTOREN	Über- haupt nicht	Ein wenig	Мäßig	Ziem- lich	Sehr
PALI	Ich halte den Kontakt zu meinen Freunden aufrecht	0	1	2	3	4
PAL2	Ich habe Familienangehörige, die meine Verpflichtungen übernehmen werden	0	1	2	3	4
PAL3	Ich habe das Gefühl, dass meine Familie mich schätzt	0	1	2	3	4
PAL4	Ich empfinde mich als Belastung für meine Familie	0	1	2	3	4
ві	Ich leide unter Atemnot	0	1	2	3	4
PAL5	Ich habe Verstopfungen	0	1	2	3	4
C2	Ich verliere an Gewicht	0	1	2	3	4
O2	Ich habe mich übergeben	0	1	2	3	4
PAL6	Einige Bereiche meines Körpers sind angeschwollen	0	1	2	3	4
PAL7	Mein Mund und mein Hals sind trocken	0	1	2	3	4
Br7	Ich fühle mich unabhängig	0	1	2	3	4
PAL8	Ich fühle mich nützlich	0	1	2	3	4
PAL9	Ich wertschätze jeden Tag	0	1	2	3	4
PAL10	Ich habe meinen Seelenfrieden gefunden	0	1	2	3	4
Sp21	Ich empfinde Hoffnung	0	1	2	3	4
PAL12	Ich bin in der Lage, Entscheidungen zu treffen	0	1	2	3	4
Li	Ich kann klar denken	0	1	2	3	4
PAL13	Ich konnte mich mit anderen Menschen versöhnen	0	1	2	3	4
PAL14	Ich kann meine Sorgen offen mit meinen engsten Vertrauten besprechen	0	ī	2	3	4

Figure 2 FACIT-Pal (Palliative Care Subscale)—German translation. Family care subscale of the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT) system with items that pertain to persons with life-limiting illness.

FAMCARE-2

Einleitung:

Bitte überlegen Sie, welche Betreuung Ihr(e) Angehörige(r) durch das Team der Palliativstation erfahren hat. Beantworten Sie bitte die unten angeführten Fragen, deren Antworten anzeigen, wie zufrieden Sie mit der Betreuung und Pflege sind: Sehr zufrieden (SZ), zufrieden (Z), unentschlossen (U), unzufrieden (UZ), sehr unzufrieden (SUZ) oder nicht zutreffend (NZ). Umkreisen Sie bitte mit einem Stift die Buchstaben, die am besten zu Ihren Erfahrungen passen. Sie müssen nicht alle Fragen beantworten.

"Patient" entspricht Ihrem Nahestehenden, der auf unserer Palliativstation behandelt wurde.

Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit:

		Sehr zufrieden	Zufrieden	Unent- schlossen	Unzufrieden	Sehr unzufrieden	Nicht zutreffend
		SZ	Z	U	UZ	SUZ	NZ
1	Der Behaglichkeit des Patienten	-	0		0	-	0
2	Der Art und Weise wie der Zustand und die weitere Entwicklung des Patienten vom Palliativteam erläutert wurden	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Den Informationen über Nebenwirkungen der Behandlung		0		0		0
4	Der Art und Weise wie das Palliativteam die Würde des Patienten achtet	0	0	0	0	0	O
5	Den Treffen mit dem Palliativteam, um den Zustand und die weitere Behandlung des Patienten zu diskutieren	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Dem Tempo, in dem Symptome behandelt werden		0		0		0
7	Der Aufmerksamkeit mit der das Palliativteam auf die Symptombeschreibung des Patienten eingeht	_	0	0	0	0	0
8	Der Art und Weise, in der dem Bedürfnis des Patienten nach körperlichen Wohlbefinden begegnet wird	0	0	0	0	0	O
9	Der Verfügbarkeit des Palliativteams für die Familie		0		0		0
10	Der seelischen Unterstützung der Familie durch das Palliativteam.		0		0		0
11	Der praktischen Unterstützung durch das Palliativteam (z.B. beim Baden, in der häuslichen Pflege, bei der Erholung)	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Der ärztlichen Aufmerksamkeit für die Beschwerden des Patienten		0		0	0	0
13	Der Art und Weise, in der die Familie in Behandlungs- und Pflegeentscheidungen einbezogen wird	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Den Informationen über den Umgang mit Patientensymptomen (z.B. Schmerz, Verstopfung)	0	0	0	0	_	0
15	Wie erfolgreich das Palliativteam die Symptome des Patienten behandelt	0	0	_	0	0	O
16	Der Art und Weise wie das Palliativteam auf wechselnde Behandlungsbedürfnisse des Patienten reagiert	_	0	_	0	0	0
17	Der seelischen Unterstützung des Patienten durch das Palliativteam		0		0		0

Datum:		
	-	

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Figure 3 FAMCARE-2—German translation. Family Carer Satisfaction with Palliative Care scale (FAMCARE-2) measures family satisfaction with care in the setting of serious illness.

[&]quot;Familie" entspricht Ihnen oder anderen Personen, die dem Patienten wichtig sind.

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: Prior to translation, the study protocol and data collection plan were approved by the institutional review boards and ethical committee of Rostock University Medical Center (No. A 2013-0028). The patients provided informed written consent.

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GS 7

FACIT-Pal (Version 4)

Nachfolgend finden Sie eine Liste von Aussagen, die von anderen Personen mit Ihrer Krankheit für wichtig befunden wurden. Bitte geben Sie jeweils an, wie sehr jede der folgenden Aussagen im Laufe der letzten 7 Tage auf Sie zugetroffen hat, indem Sie die entsprechende Zahl ankreuzen.

		KÖRPERLICHES WOHLBEFINDEN	Über- haupt nicht	Ein wenig	Mäßig	Ziem- lich	Sehr
	GP 1	Mir fehlt es an Energie	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 2	Mir ist übel	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 3	Wegen meiner körperlichen Verfassung habe ich Schwierigkeiten, den Bedürfnissen meiner Familie gerecht zu werden	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 4	Ich habe Schmerzen	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 5	Die Nebenwirkungen der Behandlung machen mir zu schaffen	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 6	Ich fühle mich krank	0	1	2	3	4
	GP 7	Ich muss zeitweilig im Bett bleiben	0	1	2	3	4
Г		VERHÄLTNIS ZU FREUNDEN, BEKANNTEN UND IHRER FAMILIE	Überhaup nicht	ot Ein weniş		g Ziem- lich	- Sehr
	GS 1	Ich stehe meinen Freunden nahe	0	1	2	3	4
					_	3	
	GS 2	Ich bekomme seelische Unterstützung von meiner Familie	0	1	2	3	4
			0	1			4
	2 GS	Familie		•	2	3	
	GS 3 GS	Familie Ich bekomme Unterstützung von meinen Freunden	0	1	2 2	3	4
	GS 3 GS 4	Familie Ich bekomme Unterstützung von meinen Freunden Meine Familie hat meine Krankheit akzeptiert Ich bin damit zufrieden, wie wir innerhalb meiner Familie	0	1	2 2 2	3 3 3	4

FACIT-Pal (Version 4)

3

4

Bitte geben Sie jeweils an, wie sehr jede der folgenden Aussagen im Laufe der letzten 7 Tage auf Sie zugetroffen hat, indem Sie die entsprechende Zahl ankreuzen.

	SEELISCHES WOHLBEFINDEN	Über- haupt nicht	Ein wenig	Mäßig	Ziem- lich	Sehr
GE l	Ich bin traurig	0	1	2	3	4
GE 2	Ich bin damit zufrieden, wie ich meine Krankheit bewältige	0	1	2	3	4
GE 3	Ich verliere die Hoffnung im Kampf gegen meine Krankheit	0	1	2	3	4
GE 4	Ich bin nervös	0	1	2	3	4
GE 5	Ich mache mir Sorgen über den Tod	0	1	2	3	4
GE 6	Ich mache mir Sorgen, dass sich mein Zustand verschlechtern wird	0	1	2	3	4

	<u>FUNKTIONSFÄHIGKEIT</u>	Über- haupt nicht	Ein wenig	Mäßig	Ziem- lich	Sehr
GF 1	Ich bin in der Lage zu arbeiten (einschließlich Arbeit zu Hause)	0	1	2	3	4
GF 2	Meine Arbeit (einschließlich Arbeit zu Hause) füllt mich aus	0	1	2	3	4
GF 3	Ich kann mein Leben genießen	0	1	2	3	4
GF 4	Ich habe mich mit meiner Krankheit abgefunden	0	1	2	3	4
GF 5	Ich schlafe gut	0	1	2	3	4
GF 6	Ich kann meine Freizeit genießen	0	1	2	3	4
GF 7	Ich bin derzeit mit meinem Leben zufrieden	0	1	2	3	4
	FACIT-Pal (Version 4)					

Bitte geben Sie jeweils an, wie sehr jede der folgenden Aussagen im Laufe der letzten 7 Tage auf Sie zugetroffen hat, indem Sie die entsprechende Zahl ankreuzen.

ZUSÄTZLICHE FAKTOREN Über-Mäßig Ziem-Sehr Ein haupt wenig lich

		nicĥt	9			
PAL1	Ich halte den Kontakt zu meinen Freunden aufrecht	0	1	2	3	4
PAL2	Ich habe Familienangehörige, die meine Verpflichtungen übernehmen werden	0	1	2	3	4
PAL3	Ich habe das Gefühl, dass meine Familie mich schätzt	0	1	2	3	4
PAL4	Ich empfinde mich als Belastung für meine Familie	0	1	2	3	4
В1	Ich leide unter Atemnot	0	1	2	3	4
PAL5	Ich habe Verstopfungen	0	1	2	3	4
C2	Ich verliere an Gewicht	0	1	2	3	4
O2	Ich habe mich übergeben	0	1	2	3	4
PAL6	Einige Bereiche meines Körpers sind angeschwollen	0	1	2	3	4
PAL7	Mein Mund und mein Hals sind trocken	0	1	2	3	4
Br7	Ich fühle mich unabhängig	0	1	2	3	4
PAL8	Ich fühle mich nützlich	0	1	2	3	4
PAL9	Ich wertschätze jeden Tag	0	1	2	3	4
PAL10	Ich habe meinen Seelenfrieden gefunden	0	1	2	3	4
Sp21	Ich empfinde Hoffnung	0	1	2	3	4
PAL12	Ich bin in der Lage, Entscheidungen zu treffen	0	1	2	3	4
L1	Ich kann klar denken	0	1	2	3	4
PAL13	Ich konnte mich mit anderen Menschen versöhnen	0	1	2	3	4
PAL14	Ich kann meine Sorgen offen mit meinen engsten Vertrauten besprechen	0	1	2	3	4
Figure S	1 FACIT-Pal—German translation.					