

Kidscreen, the European approach

The European KIDSCREEN approach is to measure quality of life and well-being in children (8-18 yrs): development, current application, and future advances

Newcastle, 15. May, 2014.

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Purpose: The kidscreen questionnaires were developed by a collaborative effort of European pediatric researchers for use in epidemiologic public health surveys, clinical intervention studies and research projects.

Methods: There is a self report and a proxy version developed in 13 European countries to warrant cross-cultural applicability.

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Results: Research has shown that it is a reliable, valid, sensitive and conceptually, linguistically appropriate QoL measure in 38 countries by now.

Based on KS experiences, there is a new computerized adaptive test called Kids-cat which promises to facilitate a very efficient, precise, as well as reliable and valid assessment of QoL.

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Conclusions: The KS has standardised QoL measurement in Europe in children as a valid and cross-cultural comparable tool. The Kids-cat has the potential to further advance pediatric health measurement and care via Internet application.

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The generic KS QoL measure for children and adolescents is available in 3 versions; the original consists of 52 items, and there is a 27 and a 10 item version as well. The instruments were designed to be used in populations aged 8 to 18 years and both self-complete and parent versions are available.

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The KS 52 dimensions explores physical well-being, psychological well-being, moods and emotions, self-perception, autonomy, parent relations and home life, social support and peers, school environment, social acceptance (bullying), financial resources. The 27 and 10 item dimensions consist less factors to focus on.

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The KS-52 requires approximately 15 mins to complete, 10 mins for the KS-27 and 5 mins for KS-10.

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All 3 KS instruments showed good results in terms of convergent, known groups and criterion validity. Between 2005 and 2012, the KS instruments have been used in 49 mostly clinical and epidemiological studies.

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The three largest and most relevant international studies in which KS instruments have been utilized to date are the health behaviour in school-aged children study, the Eurobarometer study and the Sparcle-study.

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Sparkle - study

It was designed to assess the self-reported QoL of children with CP as well as to explore the factors influencing it, and how it compared with QoL in the general population.

- KS-52 child and proxy versions to assess QoL
- 1174 children aged 8 to 12 years from 8 population based registers of children with CP in 6 European countries

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- About 61% self completed the KS-52, 39% with severe intellectual impairment could not self-report.

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The most recent advance within the KS project is the development of a computer-adaptive test version of the Kids-cat. Its aim is to accelerate the use of pediatric QoL measurement in healthy children and routine clinical practice. It contains five item banks covering the psychological, physical, family, peer and school well-being domains.

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In contrast to other widely used generic pediatric QoL measures the KS offers advantages and differences including that it was developed in 13 countries so it is truly cross-national. It was also developed in close collaboration with the Disabkids which covers disease-specific QoL in children and adults with chronic conditions. The KS-10 is well-applicable in routine monitoring and screening and helps to reduce response burden. And at last it offers 3 versions of different length, which can be used according to content and setting.

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It is to be hoped that the new Kids-cat will provide greater measurement precision coupled with a lower test burden, in order to reduce the administrative burden for respondents and clinicians.

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Thank you ☺



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