

**From a Concept's Evolution Analysis to the Definition of a New Methodological Evaluation Tool of Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) Questionnaires**

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**Abstract**

The clinical world starts to pay attention to *quality of life* (QoL) in the 1970s, when all the demographic, technological, cultural and political changes fatally influenced it. The word *health-related quality of life* (HRQoL) was created in the 1980s to identify a multidimensional and subjective concept. Even if a lot of studies have been conducted around this concept, there are still some open issues: for example, lots of studies are more focused on quality of the measuring tool than to results application. The first goal of this study is to explore the QoL concept application in clinical settings. The second goal of this study is to introduce a tool aimed at reading and structured evaluation of published and validated surveys, measuring HRQoL and overcoming the methodological limits encountered in literature. The application of a grid to a set of questionnaires, amongst the most utilized at international level, has the aim to enlighten positive aspects and critical areas. The proposed evaluation grid has been developed considering all logical steps usually taken into account when building a questionnaire:

- Brainstorming phase: identification of concepts or dimensions the questionnaire aims to measure
- Operational phase: questionnaire building, sample targeting and submitting method
- Verify phase: reliability and validity control
- Results phase: introducing the outcome of precedent phase

The application of the grid to the selected set allowed an accurate and structured evaluation of questionnaires and a critical comparison amongst them.