

MANUAL LYMPH-ICF-LL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LOWER LIMB LYMPHOEDEMA

Introduction

In 2011 the Lymph-ICF questionnaire for upper limb lymphoedema has been developed. The original language is Dutch. Each question in the questionnaire has to be scores on a Visual Analogue Scale (0-100).(1)

In 2014 the Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire for lower limb lymphoedema has been developed. The original language is also Dutch. Since subjects indicated that they preferred a scoring system with gradation, a Numeric Rating Scale (0-10) was used.(2)

In 2016, in agreement with the Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire, the Lymph-ICF was revised: Visual Analogue Scale was replaced in Numeric Rating Scale (0-10) and the name of the questionnaire was changed in Lymph-ICF-UL.(3)

Purpose of the Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire

The purpose of the Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire is to assess problems in functioning (i.e. impairments in function and activity limitations and participation restrictions) of patients with lower limb lymphoedema. It is a descriptive and evaluative tool.

Description of Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire

The Lymph-ICF-LL consists of 28 questions.

The questionnaire consists of 5 domains: physical function domain contains 6 questions; mental function domain contains 6 questions; tasks/ household domain contains 3 questions; mobility domain contains 7 questions; and the life/ social life domain contains 6 questions.

Each question has to be scored on an 11-point scale (0 to 10). The anchor points for the physical and mental function domain and tasks/ household domain are 'not at all' and 'a lot'. Those for the mobility and life domain/ social life domain were 'very well' and 'not at all'.

The patient has to score his/ her **average problems in functioning** (i.e. impairments in function and activity limitations and participation restrictions) due to the lower limb lymphoedema **of the previous 2 weeks**.

Furthermore, the patient may not to discuss the questions with anyone to maintain the **self-assessment** characteristic of the questionnaire.

The Lymph-ICF-LL takes 5 minutes to complete.

Processing of Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire

Each of the 28 questions account for a score between 0 and 10.

For calculation of the scores: see table below.

Total score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 28 – number of questions not answered X 10
Physical function score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 6 – number of questions not answered X 10
Mental function score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 6 – number of questions not answered X 10
Tasks/ household score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 3 – number of questions not answered X 10
Mobility score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 7 – number of questions not answered X 10
Life domain / social live score (0-100)	<u>Sum of scores on all questions</u> 6 – number of questions not answered X 10

Moreover, the excel-file in attachment may be used for calculation of the scores.

Interpretation of Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire

As recommended by the WHO taxonomy, the interpretation of the score occur as follows:

A score:

- between 0 and 4 = ‘no problem’
- between 5 and 24 = ‘a small problem’
- between 25 and 49 = ‘a moderate problem’
- between 50 and 95 = ‘a severe problem’
- between 96 and 100 = ‘a very severe problem’.

Measuring properties of Lymph-ICF-LL questionnaire

Published in Physical Therapy: Devoogdt et al 2014.(2)

Reliability

Test-retest reliability: Intraclass Correlation Coefficients for the total score and domain scores ranged from 0.69 to 0.94.

Internal consistency: Cronbach’s alpha coefficients for the domain scores ranged from 0.82 to 0.97.

Measurement variability: was acceptable (SEMs ranged between 5.9 and 12.6).

Validity

Face and content validity: was good since all questions were understandable for 93% of the participants, the scoring system (NRS) was clear and the questionnaire was comprehensive for 90% of the participants.

Construct validity: was good. All hypotheses assessing convergent and divergent validity were accepted.

Languages

Reliability and validity of the Dutch version of the Lymph-ICF-LL of the translations into other languages was found to be good:

Dutch (2)

Portugese (4)

Turkish (5)

German (6)

Lymph-ICF-UL has also been translated in other languages, such as English, French and Chinese.

References

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