Equivalence and Feasibility of the Paper-Based and Electronic Versions of the POSAS, the EQ-5D and the DLQI in a Belgian Scar Population by Meirte Jill | Hellemans Nick | Peter Moortgat | Maertens Koen | Anthonissen Mieke | Van Daele Ulrike | University of Antwerp, Oscare | Awell health | Oscare | Oscare | University of Antwerp

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Background: Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) are crucial within patient-centred care. The use of electronic PROMs (ePROMs) is increasing and multiple advantages of electronic data collection has been described. The goal of this research was to compare the paper versions of the Patient and Observer Scar Assessment Scale (POSAS), the Euroqol 5 Dimensions (EQ-5D-5L) and the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) with a web-based version of the measures. We assessed equivalence of scores, the differences in completion time, data processing time, patients’ preferred mode and ease of use.

Method: We used a randomized crossover design using a within-subject comparison of the formats of the questionnaires. Participants aged over 18 with a scar were recruited from Oscare, an outpatient after-care and research centre for scars and burns located in Antwerp, Belgium.

Results: Equivalence was moderate to good between paper and electronic versions of the POSAS, EQ-5D and DLQI. Completion times were not statistical different (POSAS, DLQI) or faster electronically (EQ-5D-5L). Number of missing answers could be reduced to 0. For the 3 questionnaires significant difference in data processing time was found in favour of the ePROMs. Electronic assessment was in 90% of the cases preferred and subjects found it easy to use, acceptable, a good idea, practical and something that could improve quality of care.

Conclusion: In conclusion completion times are equal or faster electronically. Scoring questionnaires electronically provides the benefit of scalability and having the results immediately. Electronic administration was preferred, and thoughts were favourable. This study gives encouragement to the further widespread development and use of ePROMs within the burn and scar population.