

ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

BUILDING A SCALE FOR MEASURING HAND ECZEMA: BOHEM

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Background: Chronic hand eczema is characterized by dryness, redness, itching, and hyperkeratosis, resulting in persistent symptoms that interfere with daily activities, social functioning, and workability.

Objective: This study sought to develop a self-administered questionnaire in French for assessing the burden of chronic hand eczema (BoHEM).

Methods: Standardized methodology was applied, comprising exploratory, development, and validation phases, [Conceptual, Development, Validation] along with translation, cross-cultural adaptation, and cognitive debriefing using a 9-step procedure.

Results: Based on discussions with 15 chronic eczema patients, a 17-item conceptual questionnaire was generated. Among the adult patients who then responded to this questionnaire, 280 were accessible.

The final questionnaire comprised 15 questions grouped into three dimensions. :The first dimension corresponding to "daily life" comprised eight items; the second dimension corresponding to "the way others look at me" comprised the following five items and the third dimension corresponding to "relationships" comprised two questions.

Confirmatory analyses generated a 15-item questionnaire grouped into three domains, demonstrating internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha: 0.913), reproducibility, and high reliability. BoHEM also significantly correlated with other validated questionnaires, such as SF12, Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS), indicating good external validity.

The original BoHEM in French was translated, then linguistically and culturally validated in US English. Both versions are presently available. The test-retest reliability was obtained from 32 evaluable subjects (Day-zero and Day-10), demonstrating very good reproducibility. The intraclass correlation of each dimension was greater than 0.88 for each domain.



Conclusion: Considering the increasing relevance attributed to patient-reported outcomes by regulatory authorities, the BoHEM questionnaire by accounting for the burden of chronic hand eczema provides such supplementary information. This burden evaluation will likely facilitate communication between patients and healthcare providers, improve information transfer, and create a real opportunity for the practitioner to better understand certain issues brought up by the patient.

