

The Underactive Thyroid Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (status version) (ThyTSQs): Summary Guidelines

Background

The Underactive Thyroid Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (status version) (ThyTSQs) is a recently developed questionnaire. The questionnaire is in two independent sections: the 7-item ThyTSQs-Present measuring satisfaction with current treatment, and the 4-item ThyTSQs-Past measuring satisfaction with past treatment around the time of diagnosis.

1. ThyTSQs-Present

1.1 *Using the ThyTSQs-Present*

We recommend that you use the ThyTSQs-Present at baseline and endpoint (and perhaps at one or two interim points in a 12-month trial). If there is a long gap between baseline and follow-up (e.g. a year or more), you may wish to repeat the ThyTSQs-Present in order to have a picture of how satisfied people are during that period. The ThyTSQs-Present can be completed by patients at intervals throughout a treatment period and when steady increases in their ThyTSQs-Present scores are seen this provides useful evidence that scores are determined by experience and are not simply a hopeful response to a new treatment, (see Witthaus et al. 2001 in relation to the DTSQ). Use of the ThyTSQs-Present six or eight weeks after baseline may be useful to assess early adjustment to treatment. At least six weeks is desirable between repeated administrations to avoid overlap of responses.

1.2 *Scoring the ThyTSQs-Present*

The ThyTSQs-Present has seven items covering different aspects of satisfaction with current treatment, and produces the following scores:

- *Total Present Treatment Satisfaction.* All 7 items are summed to produce a ThyTSQs-Present Satisfaction score (range: 0 to 42): the higher the score, the greater the satisfaction with current treatment.
- *Individual items covering aspects of present satisfaction with treatment.* All 7 items can be considered separately. All items are rated from 6 (very satisfied, convenient, etc.) to 0 (very dissatisfied, inconvenient, etc.): The higher the score, the greater the satisfaction with each aspect of current treatment.

2. ThyTSQs-Past

2.1 *Using the ThyTSQs-Past*

Whilst use of the ThyTSQs-Past is optional, it has been found that even though patients' experience of current treatment for hypothyroidism might be positive, any past negative experiences could interfere with completion of questions about current treatment, because patients want to express their dissatisfaction with earlier treatment or perceived mistreatment. We therefore recommend that the ThyTSQs-Past is also administered once, at baseline, and that it is completed before the ThyTSQs-Present, if both sections of the questionnaire are administered.

2.2 *Scoring the ThyTSQs-Past*

The ThyTSQs-Past has four items and produces the following scores:

- *ThyTSQs-Past Satisfaction score.* All 4 items are summed to produce a ThyTSQs-Past Satisfaction score (range: 0 to 24). The higher the score, the greater the satisfaction with past treatment around the time of diagnosis.
- *Individual items covering aspects of past satisfaction with treatment.* All 4 items can be considered separately, each rated from 6 (very satisfied, convenient, etc.) to 0 (very dissatisfied, inconvenient, etc.). The higher the score, the greater the satisfaction with each aspect of past treatment around the time of diagnosis.

Note: We do not recommend summing the ThyTSQs Present and Past Satisfaction scores into an overall Treatment Satisfaction score for the two sections combined.

Availability

For a licence for use of the ThyTSQs, information on licensing and general enquiries, please contact:

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Selected references

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