

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE RESPONSIVENESS AND SENSITIVITY OF THE HONG KONG SPECIFIC AND STANDARD US SF-12

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The SF-12 is an abbreviated form of the SF-36 that gives a physical and a mental summary score (PCS and MCS). Our previous study showed that six of the SF-12 items and the item weights derived from the Hong Kong (HK) Chinese adult population were different from those of the US standard SF-12. This study assessed the responsiveness and sensitivity of the HK specific and standard US SF-12 as an outcome measure in a RCT comparing three dyspepsia treatments. 234 Chinese adult patients with dyspepsia were randomised into three groups: the first received treatment guided by an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy (OGD); the second received Helicobacter pylori (HP) Breath Test guided therapy; and the third was treated with empirical cisapride. The subjects answered the SF-36 at presentation and 6 weeks later. Changes in the standard US and HK specific SF-12 PCS and MCS of the three groups were measured and compared. 229 subjects completed the study with 83, 74 and 72 in the OGD, HP and cisapride groups, respectively. The changes in the SF-12 PCS and MCS and the p values of Student t tests are shown in the table. The changes in the HK specific SF-12 PCS and MCS were significant in all groups but the changes in the standard US SF-12 scores were not significant for the cisapride group. The HK specific MCS showed a significant difference between the HP and OGD groups, which was not found by the standard US SF-12. This study showed that the HK specific SF-12 was more responsive and sensitive than the standard US SF-12 in detecting small differences in HRQOL of Chinese adults.

Change in SF-12 scores	Standard US PCS	HK Specific PCS	Standard US MCS	HK Specific MCS
OGD (n=83)	0.852 (p=0.247)	3.357 (p=0.000)	2.523 (p=0.013)	3.436* (p=0.000)
HP (n=74)	1.943 (p=0.019)	4.106 (p=0.000)	4.690# (p=0.000)	6.627##* (p=0.000)
Cisapride (n=72)	1.202 (p=0.149)	2.893 (p=0.004)	1.231# (p=0.241)	2.811# (p=0.018)
Diff between Groups	Not significant	Not significant	# p = 0.019	# p = 0.017 * p = 0.027

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