

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

The ThyTSQs can be obtained from: Prof Clare Bradley [address in footer below].

Fax: +44 (0)1784-441168. E-mail: c.bradley@rhul.ac.uk.

Selected references

ThyTSQs

McMillan CV et al. (2004) Design of new questionnaires to measure quality of life and treatment satisfaction in hypothyroidism. *Thyroid* **14**(11): 916-925.

McMillan CV et al. Quality of life and treatment satisfaction in patients with hypothyroidism. *Proceedings of the British Psychological Society* **13**(1),83.

McMillan CV et al. (2004) Psychometric properties of two new measures of quality of life (QoL) and treatment satisfaction in hypothyroidism: the ThyDQoL and ThyTSQ. *Quality of Life Research* **13**(9): 1556.

McMillan CV et al. Psychometric evaluation of a new questionnaire measuring treatment satisfaction in hypothyroidism: the ThyTSQ. *Value in Health* **9** (2): 132-139.

DTSQ

Bradley C (1994) The Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire: DTSQ. In Bradley C (Ed) *Handbook of Psychology and Diabetes: a guide to psychological measurement in diabetes research and practice*. Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers.

Bradley C and Lewis KS (1990) Measures of psychological well-being and treatment satisfaction developed from the responses of people with tablet-treated diabetes. *Diabetic Medicine* **7**(5): 445-451.

Bradley C and Speight J. (2002) Patient perceptions of diabetes and diabetes therapy: assessing quality of life. *Diabetes Metabolism Research and Reviews* **18**(Suppl 3):S64-S69.

Plowright R et al. (2000) Psychometric evaluation of Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire in 8 languages. *Proceedings of the British Psychological Society* **8**(2): 43.

Witthaus E et al. (2001) Treatment satisfaction and psychological well-being with insulin glargine compared with NPH in patients with Type 1 diabetes. *Diabetic Medicine* **18**(8): 619-625.

ThyTSQs © Professor C Bradley (8-Feb-05)

The Underactive Thyroid Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire: ThyTSQ- Present

The following questions are concerned with the treatment for your underactive thyroid (including blood monitoring and any medication) and your experience over the past few weeks. Please answer each question by circling a number on each of the scales.

1. How satisfied are you with the current treatment for your underactive thyroid?
- very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied
2. How well do you feel the treatment is working?
- very well 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very badly
3. How convenient have you found your treatment to be recently (e.g. remembering to take the medication, getting prescriptions)?
- very convenient 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very inconvenient
4. How satisfied are you with your understanding of your underactive thyroid?
- very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied
5. Would you encourage someone else with underactive thyroid to have your kind of treatment?
- Yes, I would definitely encourage them 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 No, I would definitely not encourage them
6. How well do you feel that the treatment is controlling symptoms of underactive thyroid?
- very well 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very badly
7. How satisfied would you be to continue with your present treatment and dose?
- very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied

Please make sure that you have circled one number on each of the scales above

This copy is for information only - for use, please contact Professor Bradley

ThyTSQs © Prof Clare Bradley 9/93 Standard UK English (rev. 7/94)

Health Psychology Research, Dept of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, UK.

The Underactive Thyroid Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire: ThyTSQ- Past

The following questions are concerned with your early experiences both before and after you were told you had underactive thyroid.

Please answer each question by circling a number on each of the scales.

1. How satisfied were you with the way doctors dealt with your underactive thyroid around the time it was first diagnosed?

very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied

2. How satisfied were you with the information provided by doctors about **underactive thyroid**?

very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied

3. How satisfied were you with the information provided by doctors about the **treatment** for underactive thyroid?

very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied

4. How satisfied were you that doctors took you and your underactive thyroid seriously?

very satisfied 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 very dissatisfied

Please make sure that you have circled one number on each of the scales above.

Are there any other features of your early experiences of treatment for underactive thyroid, causing either satisfaction or dissatisfaction, that have **not** been covered by the questionnaire?

Yes

No

If **yes**, please describe in the box provided.

Please continue overleaf if necessary.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

This copy is for information only - for use, please contact Professor Bradley

ThyTSQs © Prof Clare Bradley 9/93 Standard UK English (rev. 7/94)

Health Psychology Research, Dept of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, UK.