

## Patient Priorities in Diabetes: A Novel But Difficult Concept.

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The Patient Priorities in Diabetes Questionnaire (PPDQ) was developed to assess how patients with diabetes prioritize 17 diabetes care activities considered important by health care providers.

We report on survey validation and results.

Adult patients (N=184, 47% female, median age=69 yrs) with type 1 or type 2 diabetes were enrolled. The PPDQ consists of 4 parts:

- 1) Knowledge Test,
- 2) Assessment of diabetes care activities completed,
- 3) 10-point rating scales to assess the Importance, Ease, and Frequency of specific diabetes care activities, and
- 4) Demographics.

Face validity was evaluated by both patients and healthcare providers. A sample of participants completed the PPDQ a second time for test-retest reliability. Statistical analysis included descriptive statistics for knowledge test, factor analysis, and group comparisons based on t-test or MANOVA.

Face validity testing indicated that PPDQ reflected the concepts that it was intended to assess. The internal consistency of the PPDQ rating scales was good, (Cronbach's alpha 0.54 to 0.62). Median knowledge score was 17/26 (2, 26) with < 60% correct responses for questions about HbA1c test, recommended cholesterol levels and impact of ACE inhibitors. Factor analysis indicated 3 common factors for the rating scales: 1) lifestyle, 2) medication, and 3) monitoring. Patients who completed < 25% of all activities compared to those who completed > 75%, gave lower ratings to the importance, ease and frequency for 3/17 diabetes care activities (regularly seeing physician, having feet checked, having eyes checked) ( $p < .0001$ ).

The PPDQ highlighted a number of knowledge gaps for patients with diabetes that may impact on their ability to complete recommended diabetes care activities. Responses on importance, ease and frequency indicated that patients have difficulty with the concept of prioritization of diabetes self-care.