UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

Dipartimento di Medicina, Chirurgia e Odontoiatria

"Scuola Medica Salernitana"

Corso di Laurea Magistrale a ciclo unico in

Medicina e Chirurgia

Tesi Sperimentale in

Malattie dell'Apparato Digerente

TRANSCULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION OF THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE "ADULT EOSINOPHILIC ESOPHAGITIS QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE"

Relatrice

Chiar.ma Prof.ssa Paola Iovino

Candidato

Gennaro Alessio Pirro

Correlatrice

Prof.ssa Antonella Santonicola

Matricola

1060102489

ANNO ACCADEMICO

2024-2025

ABSTRACT

Background/Aims

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is a chronic type 2-mediated disease that impairs Quality of Life (QoL). Our aim was the transcultural adaptation and validation of the Adult Eosinophilic Esophagitis Quality of Life Questionnaire (EoE-QoL-A) for the Italian population.

Methods

Seventy participants (53 males, >18 years), completed the Italian version translated from the original EoE-QoL-A and validated scales to measure depression, anxiety and QoL. The reliability of total and sub-dimensions' scores, internal consistency, construct validity and test-retest reliability were assessed. The socio-demographic subgroups differences, mood and EoE-QoL-A correlations and the impact of sub-dimensions of EoE-QoL-A on mental and physical QoL were analyzed.

Results

The Italian EoE-QoL-A demonstrated excellent internal consistency (α=0.966), with all sub-dimensions had α-values>0.826 and test-retest reliability (ICC=0.982). Specifically, the Cronbach's α was 0.936 for Eating/diet impact, 0.826 for Social impact, 0.938 for Emotional impact, 0.852 for Disease anxiety, and 0.879 for Choking anxiety. Female patients reported significantly higher EoE-QoL-A than males ($p < 0.05$). Younger patients showed a higher score in the Social Impact dimension than older patients ($p = 0.006$). High scores on EoE-QoL-A were linked with high mood symptoms. The Emotional Impact domain was a significant predictor of mental health status (R^2=0.418).

Conclusions

The Italian EoE-QoL-A is a valid, reliable and responsive tool for assessing QoL in adults with EoE. Emotional impact was the most affected dimension in the health-related QoL, highlighting the necessity for clinical strategies.

The results of this thesis contributed to a peer-reviewed scientific publication, of which the candidate is first author (Pirro GA et al., Digestive and Liver Disease, 2025; doi:10.1016/j.dld.2025.12.013)