

Abstract

Background: Frequently in pain management clinics, patients are asked to fill out both the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) and the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9). These questionnaires have similar sounding questions and themes. One problem that can occur when patients are overloaded with questions is respondent burden. This analysis was done to see if simplification could occur between the two questionnaires to reduce the chance of respondent burden. **Objective:** The objective was to see if correlations existed between the individual questions of the BPI and PHQ-9. This would allow the foundation to be set for simplification of the questionnaires and reduction of questionnaire fatigue for patients. **Methods:** This analysis used an existing data set from a clinic, collected from 228 patients on their primary appointment at a pain clinic. Total scores of the PHQ-9, BPI Pain Interference, and BPI Pain Severity were compared in the opioid tolerant to the opioid naïve using T-tests. Then, the scores for each of the 9 questions in the PHQ-9 were compared to each category of the BPI Interference section to get a Pearson's coefficient r . **Results:** The percentage of patients who were opioid tolerant and opioid naïve were similar, and there were no significant differences between groups for scoring on the BPI and PHQ-9. The most highly correlated was Sleep Interference (BPI) with Item 3 (PHQ-9). Mood, Relationship, and Enjoyment had significant correlations across the board. Item 9 (PHQ-9) and Walking/Working Interference (BPI) had the lowest correlation to BPI and PHQ-9 items, respectively.