

Finalising a new patient reported outcome measure for post-stroke visual impairment using Nominal group technique

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Aim

To finalise item removal in the development of a new patient reported outcome measure for visual impairment following stroke.

Method

A nominal group technique was used, with 62 items divided into eight tasks. Each participant was given the data sets including final round Delphi survey results and Rasch analysis findings. The session followed a five step process for each task, allowing participants to consider the data, generate ideas, feedback in turn, followed by a group discussion and decision agreement. The consensus definition was agreed *a priori*.

Results

Five of 14 Delphi participants who expressed an interest in participating were able to attend the session. Two stroke survivors, two orthoptists and one occupational therapist formed the expert panel. The panel unanimously agreed to remove 36 items. A decision against removing 'using a computer' was unanimously agreed. The final task discussed all remaining items, an additional seven items were removed, seven items were combined to form three new items and the wording of five items was refined. This process resulted in the instrument being reduced to 15 items.

Discussion

During the session, the expert panel devised rules which aided decision making, in addition to the data available; 1) relevance to both inpatient and outpatient populations, 2) focus on vision-related quality of life, 3) favoured items which focused on specific activities which individuals either need to perform, or do for enjoyment over those that related to symptoms. An independent validation is now required to confirm that the new instrument is an effective tool.