

University of Groningen

Distress and health-related quality of life in Indonesian type 2 diabetes mellitus outpatients

Arifin, Bustanul

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Arifin, B. (2018). *Distress and health-related quality of life in Indonesian type 2 diabetes mellitus outpatients*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

5

Comparing the EQ-5D-3L and EQ-5D-5L: studying measurement and scores in Indonesian type 2 diabetes mellitus patients

BustanulArifin, Fredrick Dermawan Purba,
Hendra Herman, John MF Adam, Jarir Atthobari,
Catharina C M Schuiling-Veninga, Paul FM Krabbe,
Maarten J Postma

Submitted

ABSTRACT

Background

The EuroQoL five-dimensional instrument (EQ-5D) is the favoured preference-based instrument to measure health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in several countries. Two versions of the EQ-5D are available: the 3-level version (EQ-5D-3L) and the 5-level version (EQ-5D-5L). This study aims to compare specific measurement properties and scoring of the EQ-5D-3L (3L) and EQ-5D-5L (5L) in Indonesian type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) outpatients.

Methods

A survey was conducted in a hospital and two primary healthcare centres on Sulawesi Island. Participants were asked to complete the two versions of the EQ-5D instruments. The 3L and 5L were compared in terms of distribution and ceiling, discriminative power and test-retest reliability. To determine the consistency of the participants' answers, we checked the redistribution pattern, i.e., the consistency of a participant's scores in both versions.

Results

A total of 198 T2DM outpatients (mean age 59.90 ± 11.06) completed the 3L and 5L surveys. There were 46 health states for 3L, and 90 health states for 5L reported in the study respectively. The '11121' health state was reported most often: 17% in the 3L and 13% in the 5L. The results suggested a lower ceiling effect for 5L (11%) than for 3L (15%). Regarding redistribution, only 6.1% of responses were found to be inconsistent in this study. The 5L had higher discriminative power than the 3L version. Reliability as reflected by the index score was 0.64 for 3L and 0.74 for 5L. Pain/discomfort was the dimension mostly affected, whereas the self-care dimension was the least affected.

Conclusions

This study suggests that the 5L-version of the EQ-5D instrument performs better than the 3L-version in T2DM outpatients in Indonesia, regarding measurement and scoring properties. As such, our study supports the use of the 5L as the preferred health-related quality of life measurement tool.

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the number of people suffering from diabetes mellitus (DM) in the world was reported to be 366 million [1]. Based on the latest data in 2017, this number has increased by almost 20% to reach 450 million [2]. Worldwide, 90% of these suffer from type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) [3]. In Indonesia, in the same period mentioned, the number of people with T2DM even increased by 30%, i.e., from 7.3 million to 10.3 million [1,2]. In this respect, the Indonesian Ministry of Health also reported that the national prevalence of T2DM in Indonesia had almost doubled from 1.1% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2013 [4]. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health's report stated that of the 34 provinces in Indonesia, 15 provinces had a higher prevalence of T2DM patients than the national average, inclusive Sulawesi island [4]. Notably, the prevalence of T2DM amounts to 3.7% in Central Sulawesi province, 3.6% in North Sulawesi and 3.4% in South Sulawesi [4]. In addition, the highest prevalence at 10.4% of T2DM patients was found in those who had never attended school [4]. The continued increase in the prevalence of T2DM patients in Indonesia requires serious attention, especially concerning control of T2DM costs and patients' health status and cost-effectiveness of interventions. In this respect, adequate measurement of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) reflects a core issue.

The EuroQoL five-dimensional instrument (EQ-5D) is the favoured preference-based instrument to measure HRQoL in several countries [5,6]. HRQoL is measured by this instrument in such a way that it generates a single index score or utility. This instrument consists of five items covering five health-state dimensions (mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression), with each

item originally having three levels of severity (EQ-5D-3L) [7]. In 2011, the EuroQol Group expanded the number of severity levels for each dimension to five (EQ-5D-5L) [8]. Both the EQ-5D-3L (3L) and EQ-5D-5L (5L) versions have been used in several studies, covering both clinical and methodological assessments [8–10].

Several comparative studies of the 3L and 5L versions of EQ-5D have been conducted in the countries neighbouring Indonesia, notably Singapore and Thailand. Both studies reported that 5L is the preferable version for T2DM patients considering its greater discriminative power and patients' preferences [11,12]. We were interested in how this would be in Indonesia. Therefore, this study aims to compare specific measurement properties and scoring of the 3L and 5L versions in Indonesian type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) outpatients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design

A cross-sectional study was conducted from July 2016 to April 2017. A secondary care setting in South Sulawesi and two primary care settings in Central Sulawesi were included. In particular, these were Jaury Academic Hospital in Makassar and the Puskesmas/primary healthcare centers (PHCs) in Simpong and Kampung Baru in Luwuk Banggai, respectively. This study was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta, Indonesia (document number KE/FK/1188/EC, 12 November 2014, amended 16 March 2015).

Participants

Participants were T2DM outpatients with a minimum age of 18 years. The participants were informed of the study objectives and study procedure. The researcher or research

assistants obtained signed informed consent forms from the participants. For the participants with disabilities or difficulties in reading, consent was based on confirmation from their caregiver who accompanied them during treatment at a health facility. The caregiver played a role in providing support to the participants as they filled in the instruments. It is important to note that all decisions on the exact health states chosen originated from the participants. In this study, all participants were treated by a consulting resident internal medicine who gave his/her consent to the data collection during the participant's T2DM consultation (in primary and secondary care).

Instruments

EQ-5D 3L and 5L consist of two parts: the EQ-5D descriptive system classification and the EQ visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS). The EQ-5D descriptive system comprises five items on its HRQoL dimensions: mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. Each dimension in the 3L version [10] is completed with three response options: no problem, some problems, and confined to bed/unable/extreme problems, yielding a possible 243 (3^5) unique health states. A single digit expresses the level selected for that specific dimension. Therefore, the five-digit number for five dimensions describes a specific health state. For example, '11111' indicates 'no problems on any of the five dimensions', while '23231' indicates 'some problems walking, unable to wash or dress, some problems with performing usual activities, extreme pain/discomfort, and no anxiety/depression'. The 5L [8] has five scale options to choose from: no problem, slight problems, moderate problems, severe problems, and extreme problems/unable. The 5L instrument yields 3125 (5^5) unique health states. For example, '12345' indicates 'no problems walking,

slight problems washing or dressing, moderate problems doing usual activities, severe pain/discomfort and extreme anxiety/depression'. The EQ-VAS presents the participants' self-rated health on a scale of 0 (worst imaginable health) to 100 (best imaginable health). The time frame for the EQ-VAS is 'today', meaning that participants were asked to describe their health state during the day they were interviewed. We used the 3L and 5L Bahasa Indonesia versions of this study, provided by the European Quality of Life (EuroQol) Group.

Data collection procedure

After introducing the researchers and explaining the purpose of the study, a brief description to the participants was provided on how to use the EQ-5D instruments. An explanation of the concept of HRQoL as an aid on how they should describe their health state was presented. The participants were given the opportunity to ask questions throughout the data collection process. For EQ-VAS, we asked the participants to describe their health state and provide the most appropriate score to define their health state. Three research assistants were hired to collect the data. As a sequence, participants first classified their health state on the 5L items, then provided their data (sociodemographic and clinical parameters), followed by the 3L.

Test-retest reliability

Test-retest reliability was analyzed using sequential measurements. Participants involved in this phase were those who visited the specific health facility twice. The time interval between the two measurement times was four weeks as the participants were scheduled to meet their consulting resident internal medicine each month. Notably, an additional question was asked before they completed the instruments for the second time: 'Has there been any major change

in your health state between the first time you completed the instruments last month and today? For example, have you been hospitalised, had an accident, experienced a natural disaster or have been bereaved? Participants who answered 'yes' were excluded from the final sample.

Analyses

For self-reported health state profiles obtained from the two versions of EQ-5D, we calculated the percentage of participants who responded to each level of each dimension. To determine the consistency of the participants' answers, we checked the redistribution pattern, i.e., the consistency of individual participants' scores in both versions. A consistent response pair was defined as a 3L response which is at most one level away from the 5L response (e.g., a participant chose level 1 in 3L and chose level 2 in 5L). When the 5L level was more than 1 level away from the 3L level (e.g., a participant chose level 1 in 3L and chose level 3 in 5), this was labelled inconsistent [11]. Next, we converted their scores on 3L to 5L as follows: 1 in 3L equals 1 in 5L, 2 in 3L equals 3 in 5L, and 3 in 3L equals 5 in 5L [12]. The ceiling effect was defined as the proportion of participants who reported not having problems in any of the five EQ-5D dimensions (health state '11111') for both 3L and 5L. This statistic is often used to assess the discriminatory power of health-state classification systems [13,14]. As Indonesia only has the EQ-5D-5L value set, not the 3L [15], to obtain consistent 3L and 5L utility index scores, the UK 3L and 5L value sets [16,17] were used.

The test-retest reliability was assessed using the weighted kappa. We applied Landis JR & Koch GG standards [18] to determine the strength of agreement of the kappa values as follows: <0.00 = poor, 0.00-0.20 = slight, 0.21-0.40 = fair, 0.41-0.60

= moderate, 0.61-0.80 = substantial, and 0.81-1.00 = almost perfect [15]. The test-retest reliability of the EQ-VAS and index scores were calculated using intra-class correlation coefficients (ICCs), two-way random effects and absolute agreements. The following reliability guideline was used for the strength of the ICC values: <0.5 = poor, 0.5-0.75 = moderate, 0.75-0.90 = good and >0.90 = excellent [19]. The discriminative power was calculated using the Shannon index (H') and Shannon's Evenness index (J') [13,14]. H' reflects the absolute information content and J' expresses the relative information of a system or the evenness of a distribution regardless of the number of categories. In case of an even distribution, when all levels are filled with the same frequency, J' is equal to 1. Larger H' and J' values indicate more discriminatory performance. All the data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows version 23 (SPSS Inc., Cambridge, MA, USA), and statistical significance was set a priori at $p < .05$.

RESULTS

Descriptive

A total of 198 participants were interviewed (Table 1). The average age of the participants was almost 60 years, with 58% being female, and 70% of female participants reported being housewives as their main activity. Regarding the clinical conditions, more than 70% of participants were being treated with oral antidiabetic therapy (OAD), both monotherapy and OAD combinations, and 52% of participants reported T2DM-related complications. Furthermore, participants had various comorbidities, such as asthma ($n=6$), gastritis ($n=5$), and gout ($n=3$).

For test and re-test reliability, of the 198 participants who completed the first survey, 53 participants (62% female) completed

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics, clinical conditions and participants' preferences in primary and secondary care

| Variables | Primary care (n=98) n (%) | Secondary care (n=100) n (%) | Overall (n=198) n (%) |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sociodemographic characteristics | | | |
| Mean age (year) ± SD | 61.65 ± 10.34 | 56.21 ± 11.12 | 59.90 ± 11.06 |
| Age* | | | |
| Less than 56 | 22 (22) | 48 (48) | 70 (35) |
| More than 56 | 76 (78) | 52 (52) | 128 (65) |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 39 (40) | 45 (45) | 84 (43) |
| Female | 56 (60) | 55 (55) | 114 (57) |
| Education level | | | |
| None | 1 (1) | 2 (2) | 3 (2) |
| Primary school | 13 (13) | 20 (20) | 33 (16) |
| Junior high school | 24 (24) | 18 (18) | 42 (21) |
| Senior high school | 38 (39) | 45 (45) | 83 (42) |
| University degree | 22 (23) | 15 (15) | 37 (19) |
| Occupation | | | |
| Employed | 23 (23) | 41 (41) | 64 (32) |
| Retired | 36 (37) | 17 (17) | 53 (27) |
| Housewife | 39 (40) | 42 (42) | 80 (41) |
| Caregiver | | | |
| No | 76 (76) | 49 (46) | 125 (63) |
| Yes | 22 (24) | 51 (51) | 73 (37) |
| Clinical conditions | | | |
| Type of therapy | | | |
| Diet or no OAD or insulin in the R/** | 9 (9) | 11 (11) | 20 (10) |
| OAD (mono and combinations) | 70 (71) | 73 (73) | 143 (72) |
| Insulin (mono and OAD combinations) | 16 (20) | 19 (19) | 35 (12) |
| Complications and comorbidities | | | |
| None | 31 (32) | 43 (43) | 74 (38) |
| Yes | 62 (63) | 41 (41) | 103 (52) |
| Comorbidities ^a | 1 (1) | 13 (13) | 14 (7) |
| Complications and comorbidities ^b | 4 (4) | 3 (3) | 7 (3) |
| Types of complications | | | |
| No | 31 (32) | 43 (43) | 74 (38) |
| Microvascular | 9 (9) | 9 (9) | 18 (9) |
| Macrovascular | 49 (50) | 29 (29) | 78 (40) |
| Micro & macrovascular | 4 (4) | 3 (3) | 7 (3) |
| Number of T2DM complications | | | |
| No | 31 (32) | 43 (43) | 74 (38) |
| One complication | 41 (42) | 35 (35) | 76 (39) |
| Two or more | 21 (21) | 6 (6) | 27 (13) |

*We choose 56 years as the cut-off point because that is the pension age in Indonesia; ^aParticipants were defined as having comorbidities if they suffered from other diseases (not T2DM complications); ^bParticipants were defined as having complication and comorbidities if they suffered from other diseases and T2DM complications

the instruments twice. In this phase, only 12 participants had a university degree and most of the female participants were housewives (n=20). Furthermore, of the almost 70% of participants treated with OADs, 40% reported T2DM without complications and 36% reported T2DM with at least one complication. There were no missing health state data.

Scoring and ceiling

Participants usually reported no problems (level 1) on both 3L and 5L, except for the pain/discomfort dimension with only 25% and 20% of participants reporting no problems on 3L and 5L, respectively. Therefore, pain/discomfort was more often reported at other 3L and 5L levels compared to the other EQ-5D dimensions (Table 2).

Table 2. Self-reported health on the EQ-5D-3L and EQ-5D-5L descriptive system, and the EQ-VAS

| Dimensions & VAS | EQ-5D-3L | | | EQ-5D-5L | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | No problems (%) | Some problems (%) | Unable/Extremely problems (%) | No problems (%) | Slight problems (%) | Moderate problems (%) | Severe problems (%) | Unable/Extremely problems (%) |
| Mobility | 58.38 | 41.62 | 0.00 | 20.51 | 24.24 | 12.63 | 11.62 | 1.01 |
| Self-care | 82.23 | 16.75 | 1.02 | 78.28 | 12.63 | 5.05 | 3.03 | 1.01 |
| Usual activities | 67.51 | 28.43 | 4.06 | 63.64 | 18.18 | 7.58 | 7.07 | 3.54 |
| Pain/ discomfort | 25.38 | 59.90 | 14.72 | 19.7 | 40.91 | 18.18 | 17.17 | 4.04 |
| Anxiety/ depression | 46.70 | 44.67 | 8.63 | 43.43 | 33.84 | 12.63 | 8.00 | 2.02 |
| Mean EQ-VAS (SD) | 74.71 (20.13) | | | 74.81 (19.70) | | | | |
| 25% percentile | 60.00 | | | 60.00 | | | | |
| 50% percentile | 75.00 | | | 75.00 | | | | |
| 75% percentile | 90.00 | | | 90.00 | | | | |

VAS: Visual analogue scale

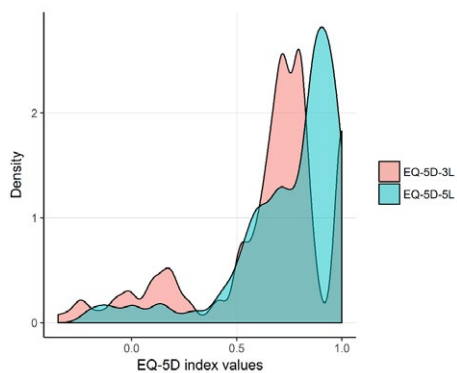


Fig 1. Cumulative percentage of the EQ-5D-3L and EQ-5D-5L index scores

Regarding the ceiling effect, the 5L version showed slightly fewer reports of absence of problems in all dimensions ('11111') compared to the 3L version. The percentage of participants reporting the '11111' health state decreased from 15% in the 3L to 11% in the 5L. Nevertheless, no statistically significant difference was found (p -value=.178). Self-care reached the highest ceiling (82% for the 3L, 78% for the 5L) while pain/discomfort showed the lowest ceiling (as mentioned above, 25% for the 3L, 20% for the 5L). The anxiety/depression dimension showed the smallest reduction in the ceiling (3% less), whereas

the mobility dimension showed the largest reduction (7% reduction) when going from 3L to 5L. None of the ceiling reductions from 3L to 5L were statistically significant.

The range of index scores was broader in the 3L than in the 5L version, especially for negative values (Figure 1). The lowest index score reported for the 3L was -0.349 (state '23333'), whereas this was -0.263 (state '45554') for the 5L. The most frequently reported health state was '11121' (slight problems in pain/discomfort and no problems in the other dimensions), i.e. 17% in the 3L and 13% in the 5L. There were 46 and 90, 3L and 5L health states reported in the study, respectively.

Redistribution from 3L to 5L

Of the participants who reported no problem (level 1) for a dimension on the 3L, most (73-94%) reported the same on the 5L, while 6-26% switched to slight problems (level 2) on the 5L as shown in Table 3. The majority of the participants who reported moderate problems (level 2) on the 3L indicated slight problems (level 2) on the 5L (44-67%), while 20-28% switched to moderate problems (level 3) and 12-31% shifted to severe problems (level 4) on the 5L. Most of the participants who indicated confined to bed/unable/extreme problems (level 3) on

Table 3. Redistribution pattern of response from 3L to 5L

| Dimension | 3L | 5L | N (%) by 3L level | | Inconsistencies* N (%) |
|--------------------|----|----|-------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Mobility | 1 | 1 | 94 | (73.08) | 11 (5.5) |
| | | 2 | 19 | (26.92) | |
| | 2 | 2 | 29 | (44.74) | |
| | | 3 | 23 | (23.68) | |
| | | 4 | 22 | (31.58) | |
| Self-Care | 1 | 1 | 150 | (93.75) | 8 (4.0) |
| | | 2 | 10 | (6.25) | |
| | 2 | 2 | 15 | (53.57) | |
| | | 3 | 8 | (28.57) | |
| | | 4 | 5 | (17.86) | |
| Usual Activities | 1 | 4 | 1 | (50.00) | 11 (5.5) |
| | | 5 | 1 | (50.00) | |
| | 2 | 1 | 117 | (89.31) | |
| | | 2 | 14 | (10.69) | |
| | | 3 | 13 | (27.08) | |
| Pain/Discomfort | 3 | 4 | 13 | (27.08) | 15 (7.6) |
| | | 5 | 7 | (87.50) | |
| | 1 | 1 | 34 | (75.55) | |
| | | 2 | 11 | (24.45) | |
| | | 3 | 15 | (65.22) | |
| Anxiety/Depression | 2 | 4 | 8 | (34.78) | 15 (7.6) |
| | | 5 | 8 | (88.89) | |
| | 1 | 1 | 80 | (88.89) | |
| | | 2 | 10 | (11.11) | |
| | | 3 | 17 | (20.48) | |
| 3 | 4 | 10 | (12.05) | | |
| | 5 | 6 | (60.00) | | |
| | 4 | 4 | (40.00) | | |

*A consistent response pair was defined as a 3L response which is at most one level away from the 5L response (e.g., a participant chose level 1 in 3L and chose level 2 in 5L). When the 5L level was more than 1 level away from the 3L level (e.g., a participant chose level 1 in 3L and chose level 3 in 5), this was labelled inconsistent.

the 3L indicated extreme problems (level 5) on the 5L for the usual activities dimension, whereas most participants who reported extreme problems on 3L redistributed into severe problems (level 4) for pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression. As for the self-care dimension, these percentages were equal. Redistribution occurred least frequently in the mobility dimension since no participant reported 'confined to bed' on the 3L in that area. The inconsistent responses were ranging from 4% on self-care to 7.6% on the pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression dimensions. An example of such inconsistency was

a participant choosing 'no problems walking' in 3L (mobility level 1) and 'severe problems walking' in 5L (mobility level 4).

Discriminative power

Compared to the 3L version, the 5L system had a substantial gain in classification efficiency for each dimension, indicated by higher H' values of all the dimensions. The J' values were more similar among the two versions of EQ-5D as shown in Table 4, indicating that the degree of the potential use of the classification system was comparable between the two versions.

Table 4 - Shannon's index (H') and (J') of 3L and 5L

| Dimension | H' | | J' | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 3L | 5L | 3L | 5L |
| Mobility | 0,68 | 1,25 | 0,43 | 0,54 |
| Self-care | 0,54 | 0,76 | 0,34 | 0,33 |
| Usual activities | 0,77 | 1,10 | 0,48 | 0,47 |
| Pain/discomfort | 0,94 | 1,43 | 0,59 | 0,62 |
| Anxiety/depression | 0,95 | 1,27 | 0,60 | 0,55 |

Table 5. Weighted Kappa and ICC of test-retest

| Dimensions | Weighted Kappa | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| | EQ-5D-3L | EQ-5D-5L |
| Mobility | 0.25 | 0.35 |
| Self-care | 0.14 | 0.30 |
| Usual activities | 0.23 | 0.37 |
| Pain/Discomfort | 0.25 | 0.19 |
| Anxiety/depression | 0.40 | 0.39 |
| | ICC | |
| VAS scores | 0.35 | 0.32 |
| Index scores | 0.64 | 0.74 |

Test-retest reliability

Fifty-three participants (26.8%) completed the instruments twice. By inclusion criterion, all reported no major changes in their health between the first and second data completion point. The weighted kappa of the 5L dimensions for the 3L was judged as slightly in agreement for the self-care dimension at 0.14, while the other four dimensions fair agreement existed: mobility at 0.25, usual activities at 0.23, pain/discomfort at 0.25 and anxiety/depression at 0.40. For the 5L, the pain/discomfort dimension was judged as slightly in agreement at 0.19, while the other four dimensions were in fair agreement: mobility at 0.35, self-care at 0.30, usual activities at 0.37 and anxiety/depression at 0.39. The EQ-VAS ICCs were 0.35 and 0.32 for the 3L and 5L respectively. Moreover, the ICCs of the 3L and 5L index scores were 0.64 and 0.74 respectively, reflecting a moderate level of reproducibility (Table 5). In short, the 5L showed better test-retest reliability (kappa and ICC) compared to the 3L.

DISCUSSION

We examined some important specific measurement properties of the 3L and 5L instruments in Indonesian T2DM outpatients. We found that the 5L version had a lower ceiling effect, higher discriminative power, and better test-retest reliability than the 3L. The 5L classification system better illustrates the variation of health state. With regards to the discriminative power, our results showed that 5L was more discriminative compared to the 3L, indicated by the gain of the Shannon H' index from 3L to 5L. This is similar to the findings from three previous studies in Asia: China [20], Thailand [12] and Singapore [11]. The J' index was also in line with the results of the aforementioned studies.

Next to better statistical properties, during discussions, also our participants stated that in the 5L they could more accurately describe their own health state and the severity of T2DM. This is in line with studies in Thailand and Singapore which also stated in both studies that DM severity could be better described in 5L compared to 3L [11,12]. Therefore, our study provides further support to advocate the use of 5L in clinical, health policy and economic evaluation studies with EQ-5D index score assessments; in our case, notably for Indonesian T2DM outpatients.

Another finding of our research concerns the fact that most participants reported problems on pain/discomfort dimension in the 3L and 5L. Notably, the '11121' was the most reported health state by the participants. Four previous studies in Asian populations with T2DM also reported similar findings [12,21–23]. Also, a multi-country study stated that the Eastern European participants had three times higher mobility and usual activity problems and six times higher self-care problems compared to their Asian counterparts [24].

In this study, the inconsistent responses were ranging from 4% (self-care) to 7.6% (pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression). This was slightly higher than in the studies in China and Singapore at 0.7-1.4% and 2.5-4.1%, respectively. A similar study in Thailand resulted in no inconsistent response at all. It could be argued that higher education level, younger age, and more healthy DM patients (without complications or comorbidities) might play a role in this difference, which indeed seems the case in Thailand study. However, the age distributions and education levels of our participants were overall similar with those in the China and Singapore studies. A possible explanation offered is that the difficulties faced by our elderly participants in completing the 5L produced these inconsistent responses, although we assisted with explanations. Notably, many elderly participants experienced decreased vision and hearing loss, especially participants in the secondary care facilities. Also, many Indonesian T2DM patients had low levels of education, so an explanation of the HRQoL concept and the EQ-5D instrument was a necessity.

Our study has some limitations which should be considered. First, the participants were recruited from only two locations in Indonesia. Therefore, generalizing the findings nationally should be done with caution. Second, only outpatient participants were recruited for this study. These findings may not be generalizable to inpatients who probably experience more health difficulties. Another limitation is that we did not randomize the order of the two versions of the EQ-5D instrument. One could argue that the presentation of 5L first followed by the 3L for all participants might produce some bias in the answers of the participants. Our reason was to limit the tendency to not use level 2 and 4 in 5L [25]. Also, this order was also used in other comparative studies, such as those

in Thailand [12], Singapore [11] and one multi-country study Denmark, England, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Scotland [26].

Finally, it is noteworthy that, during our discussions, it seemed that participants with lower education levels and elderly participants preferred the 3L version, often mentioning that the 3L version was easier to understand, despite all explanations provided and the flexibility of the 5L version to more precisely express the health state. Obviously, these patients' preferences come in as an additional important aspect and warrants further research in this area, inclusive options to even better convey the 5L version to participants. Finally, further research should focus on other areas in Indonesia beyond our index area of Sulawesi; for example, a similar type of investigation on Java would be worthwhile, with the majority of the Indonesian population living there.

CONCLUSION

This study suggests that the 5L-version of EQ-5D performs better than the 3L-version in T2DM outpatients in Indonesia. As such, our study supports the use of the 5L as the preferred HRQoL tool to derive EQ-5D index scores, which are indispensable in pharmacoeconomic analyses and health economic evaluations of interventions in T2DM patients.

DECLARATIONS

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta, Indonesia (document number KE/FK/1188/EC, 12 November 2014, amended 16 March 2015).

Consent for publication

Not applicable for that section.

Availability of data and material

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing interests

Prof Maarten J Postma reports grants and honoraria from various pharmaceutical companies, all fully unrelated to this project. The other authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Funding

The research was supported by a grant from Beasiswa Pendidikan Indonesia (BPI)/LPDP (the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education, Ministry of Finance of Republic of Indonesia) with contract number 20130821080334 and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands (project code 134502).

Authors contributions

BA, FDP, PFK and MJP were involved in the conceptualization and the design of this study. BA, HH and JMA authors carried out the data collection. FDP conducted the analysis, and BA drafted the manuscript, all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the LPDP Scholarship of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, our participants and research assistants (Maya Christine Linggar, Muhammad Ramlan Budikusuma, and Fitriyanti), Christiaan Dolk, dr. Ernita Kamindang, SpPD, Jaury Academic Hospital in Makassar, Puskesmas Kampung Baru and Puskesmas Simpong Luwuk Banggai Central Sulawesi.

REFERENCES

1. IDF. IDF diabetes atlas, Fifth edition [Internet]. Brussels, Belgium: International Diabetes Federation; 2011. p. 1–144. Available from: www.diabetesatlas.org
2. IDF. IDF diabetes atlas, Eighth edition [Internet]. Brussels, Belgium: International Diabetes Federation; 2017. p. 1–150. Available from: www.diabetesatlas.org
3. WHO. Diabetes mellitus [Internet]. World Heal. Organ. 2017 [cited 2017 Nov 17]. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs138/en/>
4. PUSDATIN. Situasi dan analisis diabetes [Internet]. Jakarta; 2014. Available from: <http://www.depkes.go.id/resources/download/pusdatin/infodatin/infodatin-diabetes.pdf>
5. Rawlins MD, Culyer AJ. National Institute for Clinical Excellence and its value judgments. *Br Med J*. 2004;329:224–7.
6. Sakthong P. Measurement of Clinical-Effect: Utility. *J Med Ass*. 2008;91:S43–52.
7. Brooks R. EuroQol: the current state of play. *Health Policy*. 1996;37:53–72.
8. Herdman M, Gudex C, Lloyd A, Janssen M, Kind P, Parkin D, et al. Development and preliminary testing of the new five-level version of EQ-5D (EQ-5D-5L). *Qual Life Res*. 2011;20:1727–36.
9. EUROQoL-Group. EQ5D-3L [Internet]. EuroQoL Gr. Assoc. 2015 [cited 2016 Mar 9]. Available from: <http://www.euroqol.org/eq-5d-products/eq-5d-3l.html>
10. Rabin R, de Charro F. EQ-5D: a measure of health status from the EuroQol Group. *Ann Med*. 2001;33:337–43.
11. Wang P, Luo N, Tai ES, Thumboo J. The EQ-5D-5L is More Discriminative Than the EQ-5D-3L in Patients with Diabetes in Singapore. *Value Heal Reg Issues*. Elsevier; 2016;9:57–62.
12. Pattanaphesaj J, Thavorncharoensap M. Measurement properties of the EQ-5D-5L compared to EQ-5D-3L in the Thai diabetes patients. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* [Internet]. 2015;13:14. Available from: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=4328309&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract>

13. Janssen MF, Birnie E, Bonsel GJ. Evaluating the discriminatory power of EQ-5D, HUI2 and HUI3 in a US general population survey using Shannon's indices. *Qual Life Res*. 2007;16:895-904.
14. Shannon CE. A mathematical theory of communication. *Bell Syst Tech J* [Internet]. 1948;27:379-423. Available from: <http://cm.bell-labs.com/cm/ms/what/shannonday/shannon1948.pdf>
15. Purba FD, Hunfeld JAM, Iskandarsyah A, Fitriana TS, Sadarjoen SS, Ramos-Goñi JM, et al. The Indonesian EQ-5D-5L Value Set. *Pharmacoeconomics* [Internet]. 2017;doi: 10.1007/s40273-017-0538-9. [Epub ahead of pri. Available from: <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/s40273-017-0538-9>
16. Devlin N, Shah K, Feng Y, Mulhern B, Van_Hout B. Valuing health-related Quality of Life: an EQ-5D-5L value set for England. *Off Heal Econ Res*. 2016;1-22.
17. Dolan P. Modeling valuation for EuroQoL health states. *Med Care*. 1997;35:1095-108.
18. Landis JR, Koch GG. The Measurement of Observer Agreement for Categorical Data Published by: International Biometric Society Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2529310>. *Biometrics*. 1977;33:159-74.
19. Koo TK, Li MY. A Guideline of Selecting and Reporting Intraclass Correlation Coefficients for Reliability Research. *J Chiropr Med* [Internet]. Elsevier B.V.; 2016;15:155-63. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcm.2016.02.012>
20. Pan C-W, Sun H-P, Wang X, Ma Q, Xu Y, Luo N, et al. The EQ-5D-5L index score is more discriminative than the EQ-5D-3L index score in diabetes patients. *Qual Life Res* [Internet]. Springer International Publishing; 2015;24:1767-74. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11136-014-0902-6>
21. Javanbakht M, Abolhasani F, Mashayekhi A, Baradaran HR, Jahangiri noudeh Y. Health related quality of life in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Iran: a national survey. *PLoS One*. 2012;7:1-9.
22. Saleh F, Ara F, Mumu SJ, Hafez A. Assessment of health - related quality of life of Bangladeshi patients with type 2 diabetes using the EQ - 5D: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Res Notes. BioMed Central*; 2015;8:1-8.
23. Sakamaki H, Ikeda S, Ikegami N, Uchigata Y, Iwamoto Y, Origasa H, et al. Measurement of HRQL using EQ-5D in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Japan. *Value Heal* [Internet]. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR); 2006;9:47-53. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1524-4733.2006.00080.x>
24. Salomon JA, Patel A, Neal B, Glasziou P, Grobbee DE, Chalmers J, et al. Comparability of Patient-reported Health Status: Multicountry analysis of EQ-5D Responses in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes. *Med Care*. 2011;49:962-9.
25. Janssen MF, Birnie E, Haagsma JA, Bonsel GJ. Comparing the Standard EQ-5D Three-Level System with a Five-Level Version. *Value Heal. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)*; 2008;11:275-84.
26. Janssen MF, Pickard AS, Golicki D, Gudex C, Niewada M, Scalone L, et al. Measurement properties of the EQ-5D-5L compared to the EQ-5D-3L across eight patient groups: a multi-country study. 2013;22:1717-27.

