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Original Articles

## Piloting a Patient-based Questionnaire to Assess Patient Satisfaction with the Process of Orthodontic Treatment

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To test the scientific properties of a patient-based questionnaire developed to measure adolescent patient's satisfaction with the process of orthodontic treatment.

**Materials and Methods:** Forty-nine consecutive patients aged 9 to 17 years undergoing orthodontic treatment were asked to complete the questionnaire on two separate occasions. Test-retest reliability, readability, ease of administration, criterion validity, and construct validity were tested. All patients answered the questionnaire at time 1 and took part in the construct validity study. Ten patients took part in an ease of administration study and 17 patients took part in the criterion validity study.

**Results:** Thirty-one patients completed the questionnaire at time 2, giving a response rate of 63.3%. The test-retest reliability was excellent in one section, moderate in six sections, and poor in one. The questionnaire had a Flesch Reading Score of 79.8, equivalent to a reading age of 10 years and was easily administered in 5 to 15 minutes. Although the construct validity of the questionnaire was excellent in five of the six measures and moderate in the other, the criterion validity was poor for 7 of the 14 items selected to test.

**Conclusion:** This pilot study demonstrates the need to test a questionnaire before use in audit or research.

**Keywords:** [Questionnaire](#), [Pilot](#), [Satisfaction](#)

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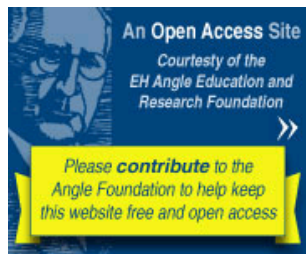
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