

TITLE: NEW INSIGHTS INTO DISEASE SPECIFIC PATTERNS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN SYMPTOMS USING THE painDETECT-QUESTIONNAIRE WITH A SIMPLE STANDARDISATION PROCEDURE

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Background and Objective

The painDETECT questionnaire (PD-Q) was originally developed for the screening of neuropathic components in patients with chronic pain. Nowadays it is widely used for documentation of pain in a wider range of indications. Since 2006, data from more than 522,000 assessments (~50% back pain) patients have been collected in a project register.

A standardization allowing the comparison of patterns of neuropathic components between in several diseases causing pain has been developed.

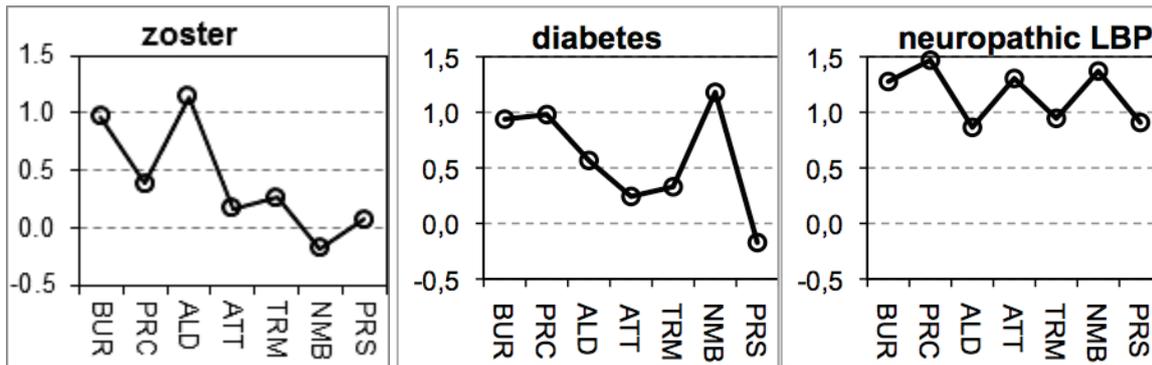
Methods

Items of PD-Q are normalised by mean of all patients at their first visit, whereby each indication is considered with the same weight. Only indications for which N>1000 cases are considered in this standardization.

Within this PD-Q-disease standardization, a horizontal line, showing no deviation from the initial value, represents an “average patient”.

Results

Profiles of neuropathic pain components for frequent pain conditions using PD-Q disease-standardization (disease-specific means per items of patients from the register) are shown in the following figure:



BUR – Burning, PRC – Prickling, ALD – Allodynia, ATT – Attack, TRM – Temperature, NMB – numbness, PRS – pressure; vertical axis shows deviation from average

Conclusions

The standardization allows comparison of neuropathic components in different pain diseases. Results of the cluster analysis (profiles) fit with physicians' experience. In conclusion, the application of PD-Q together with this simple standardisation allows one to compare populations between studies, as well as within studies, in a simple way.