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The Psychometric Properties of the Brief Symptom Inventory Depression and Anxiety Subscales in Heart Failure Patients with and Without Renal Dysfunction

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Abstract Information

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Introduction:
The purpose was to investigate the psychometric properties of the Depression and Anxiety Subscales of the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI) in patients with heart failure (HF) and renal dysfunction.

Method(s):
A secondary data analysis of 349 HF patients who completed both the BSI subscales and the Beck Depression Inventory was conducted. Seventeen percent of the patients also had a diagnosis of renal dysfunction. Cronbach's ± was used to estimate the internal consistency of the subscales. Construct validity was investigated using correlational analysis. Separate principal components analyses were performed on the items of the two BSI subscales combined for HF patients with and without renal dysfunction.

Results:
Cronbach's alphas were excellent: Depression Subscale = 0.89 in the HF only group and 0.88 in the HF plus renal failure group and Anxiety Subscale = 0.84 in the HF only group and 0.84 in the HF plus renal failure group. Evidence of construct validity was supported by stronger correlations of the BDI with the BSI Depression Subscale than with the BSI Anxiety Subscale in both HF patients with (r = 0.72, p = 0.0005 vs. r = 0.63, p = 0.0005) and without (r = 0.82, p = 0.0005 versus r = 0.64, p = 0.0005) renal failure. Principal components analysis indicated the items of the two subscales composed two dimensions in HF group accounting for 56.9% and 10.5% (eigenvalues of 6.82 and 1.30) of the item variance explained by the two factors in patients with renal dysfunction vs. 54% of the variance in the items in those with HF only.

Discussion:
BSI Anxiety and Depression Subscales demonstrated evidence of internal consistency reliability and construct validity. The factor structure demonstrated the BSI subscales measured two distinct dimensions (anxiety and depression) in HF group with renal dysfunction.

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