B1-23: Psychometric Properties of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 in Heart Failure Patients with Chronic Constipation

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Abstract:
Introduction: Depression and anxiety are often correlated with gastrointestinal disease. Depression with chronic illness increases medical costs. Therefore screening depression among patients with gastrointestinal disease is important to reduce treatment cost. The validity and reliability of the Patients Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) has not been tested in a sample with gastrointestinal disease. The purpose of this study was to examine the reliability and validity of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9). The specific aims were to; compare the prevalence of depression in heart failure patients with constipation and gastrointestinal (GI) disease; examine the internal consistency of the PHQ-9; and examine concurrent and construct validity of the measure.

Method(s): Cross-sectional data for this secondary analysis were collected in four longitudinal studies of persons with heart failure (N = 382). The Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI), the
Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI), and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (PSSS) were used to examine concurrent and construct validity.

**Results:** Based on the cutoff of $\geq 5$ for the PHQ-9, 50% of the total sample reported depressive symptoms; 57% of those with GI disease and 65% of those with constipation reported depression. Cronbach’s alphas for the PHQ-9 were .87 in those with heart disease, .87 for those with GI disease, and .89 for those with constipation. The correlation between the PHQ-9 and the BDI-II was .81 ($p < .01$) in those with constipation. The PHQ-9 was inversely related to the PSSS in those with heart disease ($r = -.29$, $p = .01$); however, the correlation between the PHQ-9 and the PSSS was not significant in those with constipation. In patients with constipation, the correlations of the PHQ-9 with the BSI subscales were: .77 ($p < .01$) with anxiety, .68 ($p < .01$) with depression, and .51 ($p < .01$) with hostility.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The PHQ-9 is valid and reliable in screening patients with heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, or constipation for depression. The PHQ-9 is an effective screening tool for depression because it is short, easy to complete, and easy to score. Further study is needed to examine the psychometric properties of the PHQ-9 with a large sample of patients with constipation.

**Abstract History:**

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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