P1-12: Measuring Beliefs About Breast Cancer Screening Among Women With Chronic Disabling Conditions

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Abstract:
Introduction: The Breast Cancer Screening Belief Scales (BCSBS) based on the Health Belief Model is used in diverse populations to measure women's beliefs about mammograms and breast self-exams. Due to the limited research regarding breast cancer screening beliefs among women with chronic disabling conditions, the purpose of this study was to adapt Champion’s BCSBS for women with chronic disabling conditions of multiple sclerosis (MS) and assess the reliability of the modified BCSBS.

Method(s): Based on 36 interviews of women with MS, seven items were added or modified on the Barriers, Benefits, and Susceptibility subscales of the 1993 version of the BCSBS. The new items addressed issues the women experienced about: transportation, mammogram equipment positioning, remembering, loss of sensation of fingers and/or hands and “having too much to deal with”. No changes were made to the Self-efficacy subscale. The revised scales had a total of 29
items across the six subscales. There were five and seven items in the Benefits and in the Barriers mammography subscales respectively. The revised Breast Self-Exam Benefits and Barriers subscales had four and seven items respectively. The Self-efficacy and Susceptibility scales had three items each. The modified survey was given to a volunteer sample of 250 women with MS participating in a longitudinal study on health promotion among persons with MS. Most of the women in this study were White (91%) and had completed college (42%). About 36% were unemployed due to disability. Analysis included internal consistency reliability test using Cronbach’s Alpha for the subscales.

**Results:** All subscales had internal consistency reliability values greater than .70 except for the Susceptibility subscale (.54). The items that were added or modified performed well except for the item that addressed, “having too much to deal with”. When this item was deleted the alpha value of the Susceptibility subscale improved to .80.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Overall the subscales of the modified BCSBS had adequate reliability in this sample of women with MS. Further research is needed to refine the question on “having too much to deal with” for the Susceptibility subscale which had an alpha less than .70. 
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**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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