

Table 1 FertiQoL item generation, selection and reduction for psychometric evaluation

Task & aims	Participants	Materials	Outcome
Literature review and expert consultation to generate potential items	Psychosocial experts in reproductive health (n=17) FertiQoL Steering Committee (n=10) Groups included: researchers, psychologists, social workers, counselors, patients, gynecologists, nurses, clinicians in 11 countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA	Psychosocial studies Existing fertility-related tools Treatment evaluation tools Quality of life measures WHO development manual	302 items in 14 domains (e.g., partnership, self-esteem, career)
Classification & reduction of item pool to eliminate redundant or irrelevant items or rare QoL effects	FertiQoL TWG	WHO selection criteria: items should be revealing of QoL, cover key domains, use simple language, ask about single issues, free of ambiguity, etc.	Item pool reduced to 116 items WHO response scales matched to items
Focus groups with patients to validate the items generated by the experts & uncover any effects overlooked by the experts	17 focus groups (N=136 participants): Canada, Germany, Mexico, United States, Italy ^a Purposive sampling for age (< or > 35 years), gender, duration of infertility (< or > 2 years) and parity (< or > 1 child) Psychosocial experts facilitated open, unstructured discussion groups followed by structured feedback exercise on FertiQoL item pool; duration 1.5 to 2 hours	Structured interview guide (facilitators), workbooks (participants) & 116 item-pool FertiQoL	Item decrease from 116 to 102 (22 items eliminated and 8 added) based on > or < 50% endorsement Added 18 treatment items; Wording corrected; eliminated and/or combined redundant items; improved face validity; ensured items pertained to QoL and response scale appropriate
Survey to assess acceptability and feasibility of FertiQoL item style in different languages	N=525 men and women in 10 countries: Argentina (n=48), Brazil (n=96), Canada (n=59), France (n=63), Germany (n=37), Greece (n=32), Italy (n=47), Mexico (n=46), New Zealand (n=11), Spain (n=43), United Kingdom (n=79) and the United States (n=43).	102 Core FertiQoL + 27 optional treatment items Additional items inquired about clarity, coverage and problems with item pool Material translated by experts	Final Core FertiQoL pool for psychometric phase was 102 items + 27 optional Treatment items. FertiQoL well accepted, perceived to be important & timely Items easy to understand & relevant FertiQoL completing 15-20 minutes Main problems: items that did not apply to all people (e.g., single or untreated) and timeframe for “Instructions” required

Note. WHO = World Health Organization. TWG= technical working group (Boivin, Takefman, Braverman). FertiQoL TWG involved in all aspects of project development. ^aFocus groups in Singapore cancelled due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus

Supplemental Table 1 in Boivin, J, Takefman, J, Braverman, A. (2011) Development and preliminary validation of the fertility quality of life (FertiQoL) tool. *Fertility and Sterility*, 96, 409–15.