

Validity evidence of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) in Chilean patients with chronic kidney disease

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Background: Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global health issue that significantly impacts patients' quality of life due to physical and emotional symptoms. Anxiety and depression are common in these patients, negatively affecting their prognosis and treatment adherence. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) is a popular tool for assessing these disorders, but it has not been validated in Chilean renal patients. **Methods:** In a sample of 442 CKD patients from hospital centers in Chile, the factor structure, internal consistency, and concurrent validity of the HADS were evaluated using confirmatory factor analysis, Cronbach's alpha, McDonald's omega, and correlations with the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS-21), respectively. **Results:** Analyses showed a good fit for the two correlated factors model, with anxiety and depression subscales demonstrating high internal consistency. Significant correlations between HADS and DASS-21 confirmed concurrent validity. **Conclusions:** These findings suggest that the HADS is a valid and reliable tool for assessing anxiety and depression in Chilean CKD patients, facilitating timely psychological interventions and improving patients' quality of life. Future studies should include more diverse samples and assess the temporal stability of the scales to confirm these findings.

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Primary authors: VILLORIA, Erica; HOLGADO TELLO, Francisco Pablo; LOZANO LOZANO, Jose Antonio; CHACÓN MOSCOSO, Salvador (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain; Universidad Autónoma de Chile, Chile); SANDUVETE-CHAVES, Susana (Universidad de Sevilla)

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