

Research Article

An Observational Study Related to Health Related Quality of Life in Women Suffering from PCOS

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ABSTRACT

Aim: An observational study related to heath related quality of life in women suffering from PCOS. Objectives: To assess Quality of Life & the impact of symptoms in women Suffering from PCOS. Methodology: This study was initiated after getting the approval from college research committee & Institute Ethics Committee. All patients age between 18-45 years old with PCOS attending to the OPD of our study site, during the study period of 4 months will be including in the study after taking information consent. All the demographic and clinical detail of the patient will be filled in a predesign case report form. To assess quality of life and to assess psychological burden "PCOSOoL 45-57 was used and score of above mention scale is calculated and recorded. Result and Discussion: In our study, we had evaluated each question result from the scale. Each question has the multiple options such as Agree, Highly Agree, Disagree and we had calculated the number of patients and number of percentage form each options of individual question. In overall 6 factors the more agree responses were found in hair and acne disorder (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (11%) & the highly agree responses were found in Physiological and emotional status (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (9%) & the more disagree responses were found in obesity and menstrual disorder and (23%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (8%). Conclusion: We studied the Quality of Life of PCOS patients. Investigation of the scale of PCOSQoL 45-57 showed that PCOS had impact on their emotions self-embarrassment, self-esteem, feelings of sadness, self-confidences, overall emotional stability. In our study we collect the data of 127 participants in which 102 females were married & 25 females were unmarried, from these we concluded that PCOS is more affected in married females & lesser affected in unmarried females. As per our study we include 6 factors such as, Physiological & Emotional status, Menstrual Irregularities and Infertility, Body Images, Hair Disorder and Acne, Fertility and Sexual life, Obesity and Menstrual Disorder and we found that Hair disorder and Acne is more affecting factor in PCOS Women & in contrast Body image is lesser affecting factor in PCOS women, we concluded it from PCOSQoL 45-57 Scale.

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INTRODUCTION

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a Heterogeneous disorder, as PCOS is a hormonal imbalance brought on by

an excess of hormones produced by the ovaries, the organ that produces and releases eggs. Ovaries release androgen hormones in abnormally high amounts if you have PCOS [1].



Figure 1. PCOS [2].

In PCOS reproductive hormones will be imbalance as a result. Consequently, irregular menstrual cycles, Irregular menstruation, and uncertain ovulation are common in PCOS patients. Due to anovulation, or absence of ovulation, small follicular cysts—fluid-filled sacs containing immature eggs may be seen in the ovaries on ultrasonography. One of the most frequent reasons for infertility in women and those who were Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB) is PCOS. Additionally, it may make you more susceptible to other illnesses [1].

The possible effects of PCOS on the quality of life of affected women. In general, health- related quality of life (HRQoL) is a measurement of the portion of an individual's happiness that is influenced by their health, and it is estimated through the use of specially created questionnaires. The impact of PCOS on HRQoL has only been directly measured in one study to date. Still, a number of research have provided a qualitative description of the impact of PCOS, and other studies are intended to look into the impacts of various PCOS symptoms individually on HRQoL.

According to specialized society recommendations, PCOS

must be diagnosed based on the presence of two out of the three criteria listed below: polycystic ovaries, clinical or biological hyperandrogenism, and chronic anovulation. Since it's an exclusion diagnosis, conditions that resemble PCOS's clinical characteristics must be ruled out. These include nonclassical congenital adrenal hyperplasia, hyperprolactinemia, and thyroid disease.

Sign and Symptoms

Some women start developed symptoms around the time of first period. Others only discover they have PCOS after they've gained a lot of weight or they've had trouble Conceive pregnant.

Among the most typical signs of PCOS are:

Abnormal Uterine Bleeding (Irregular periods)

Missing periods or having no periods at all are examples of abnormal Amenstruation. It might also result in Menorrhagia. The regular eliminating of the uterine lining is complicated by non-ovulation. Less than eight periods or none at all are experienced by some PCOS-affected women [1,3].



Figure 2. Abnormal uterine bleeding [4].

Hirsutism (Abnormal hair growth)

A medical condition linked to the hormones known as androgens is hirsutism. The most prevalent cause of hirsutism

is polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), which affects up to 10% of women and is characterized by the ovaries producing excessive levels of androgens [1,3].



Figure 3. Hirsutism [7].

Acne

PCOS and other hormonal conditions that can lead too much testosterone in the body & can increase sebum and skin cell

production, leading to acne. Particularly on the back, chest, and face, acne can be caused due to PCOS. Acne can persist well into adolescence and can be challenging to cure [1,3].



Figure 4. Acne [6].

Obesity

Between 40 and 80 percent of PCOS patients are obese and struggle to maintain a healthy weight. Insulin resistance may develop as a result of the body's cells being less sensitive to insulin in PCOS. In order to make up for this, the pancreas produces more insulin. Because elevated insulin promotes fat accumulation, increases appetite, and inhibits the breakdown of stored fat, it can all lead to weight gain [1,3].



Figure 5. Obesity [7].

Acanthosis nigricans (Darkening of the skin):

groin, armpits, and neck folds [1,3].

PCOS may develop dark spots on your skin, particularly in the



Figure 6. Acanthosis nigricans [8].

Menorrhagia (Heavy bleeding): If you do experience periods, thickens over an extended period of time [1,3]. they may be thicker than usual since the uterine lining



Alopecia: Scalp hair thins and may eventually fall out [1,3].Headaches: PCOS increases the chance of depression and

obesity, two conditions that increase the risk of migraine headaches [1,3].



Etiology:

The exact cause of PCOS is unknown, but some possible contributing factors are as follows

Insulin resistance

Low-grade inflammation Heredity

Excess androgen

Pathophysiology

Epidemiology:

As previously stated, depending on the diagnostic criteria, PCOS affects 5% to 15% of girls in the reproductive age range around the world, making it the most prevalent 98(%) endocrine disorders. Relative to the 1990 National Institute of Health standards, the Rotterdam standards include a wider range of prevalence. It is estimated that around 5 million

females in the United States who are of reproductive age suffer with PCOS, according to the NIH 2012 workshop report. The cost to the healthcare system for identifying and treating PCOS is roughly \$4 billion yearly, not considering the expense of major comorbidities associated with PCOS [9].

Numerous conditions have been linked to PCOS, such as infertility, metabolic syndrome, obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, diabetes mellitus (DM-2), cardiovascular risk, depression, OSA, endometrial cancer, and NAFLD/NASH. Additionally, there is evidence of a higher prevalence in firstdegree relatives with PCOS, prepubertal obesity, congenital virilizing disorders, above-average or low birth weight for gestational age, premature adrenarche, and use of valproic acid as an antiepileptic medication.



Diagnosis

The accurate diagnosis of polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) lacks a single test. Physician will probably observe about symptoms, prescription drugs, and any other illnesses that women have. Physician might also inquire about any changes in weight and menstrual cycles. During a physical examination, symptoms of acne, insulin resistance, and excessive hair growth are observed. **Pelvic Examination:** Physician might examine reproductive organs during a pelvic examination for detection lumps, growths, or other abnormalities.

Blood Tests: Hormone levels can be measured by blood testing. With this testing, any causes of irregular periods or androgen excess that resemble PCOS may be ruled out. Additional blood tests, such fasting cholesterol and triglyceride measurements, may be performed on patient. Body's reaction to sugar (glucose) may be measured using a glucose tolerance test.

Ultrasound: ovaries may appear and the thickness of uterine lining may both be examined using an ultrasound. Vagina route is used to insert a transducer, which resembles a wand Sound waves are emitted by the transducer and are converted into visuals on a computer screen & PCOS is diagnosed. physician may suggest further testing to look for issues.

Treatment

Lifestyle Modification

Exercise and calorie-restrictive diets are the most effective first-line therapies for weight reduction and IGT in overweight and obese PCOS women and adolescents. Numerous studies have demonstrated that hirsutism can enhance ovulation and menstrual cycle management. In an attempt to better address hyperinsulinism, low-carb diets have been employed; however, research has not revealed any differences in the results obtained from these diets.

Hormonal Contraceptive

Hormonal contraceptives, such as oral, patch, or vaginal rings, are the first line of therapy for irregular menstruation, hirsutism, and acne. The Endocrine Society is not biased toward any one option. By lowering LH levels, the progestin component increases sex hormone-binding globulin and indirectly reduces the generation of androgen in the ovaries [9].

Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that certain progestins directly block 5 alpha- reductase activity, preventing free testosterone from being converted to 5 alphadihydrotestosterone, which is a more powerful form. These progestins have been proven to have direct antiandrogenic characteristics. They are therefore quite successful in reducing hyperandrogenism symptoms and regulating the menstrual cycle. Every patient should have their hormonal contraceptive contraindication screened. Absolute contraindications include women 35 years of age or older who smoke more than 15 cigarettes a day, have uncontrolled hypertension higher than 160/100, uncontrolled diabetes, and severe peripheral vascular disease. When there are several comorbidities, the US Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use are a useful resource [9].

Hormonal contraceptives are not contraindicated for patients with diabetes who do not have vascular problems.

In terms of how hormonal contraceptives affect metabolism, increased estrogen activity raises HDL cholesterol and lowers LDL cholesterol. No difference in body weight or distribution of fat between women with PCOS and those without.

Initial oral contraceptive dosage of 20 mcg of ethinyl estradiol in combination with a progestin that either has neutral effects, like norehindrone acetate, or antiandrogenic qualities, such desogestrel and drospirenone. It has been demonstrated that progestins with antiandrogenic qualities increase the incidence of venous thromboembolism (VTE). If this initial dose of ethinyl estradiol does not entirely manage hyperandrogenic symptoms, it is possible to raise the dosage to 30 to 35 mcg.

METHODOLOGY

Study Site

This study was conducted at Akanksha Hospital & Research Institute Anand.

Source of Data

Patient demographics, present complaints, past history, medical history, medication history, family history, PCOSQOL 45-57 form was filled through patient counseling who visited the OPD of our study site.

Related Approval:

All the clinical data of patient between 18-45 years of age and clinically diagnosed with PCOS.

Duration of Study

The study was conducted for the duration of 6 months after getting ethical approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee Charusat.

Study Design

Observational Study.

NO. OF SAMPLES COLLECTED: 127 approx

By using solvin formula:

n = N/1+N (e2)

n = Minimal number of sample size

N = Total number of population

E = Margin of error (assume to be worth 8%)

n = 1000/1 + 1000 (0.08)2

n = 1000/1+6.4

n = 1000/7.4

n= 135

Materials Required

Patient Information Sheet

Informed consent form

Case report form

PCOSQOL scale 45-57

Study Criteria

This participants selection based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion Criteria

Women at reproductive age (18-45 years)

Menstrual Irregularities

Other co-morbid conditions

Exclusion Criteria

Women older than 45 years

Amenorrhea of menopause

Materials Required:

- 1. Data Collection form
- 2. Patient Information Sheet
- 3. Informed consent form

Method Of Study

This study was initiated after getting the approval from IRB & Institute Ethics Committee.

All patients age between 18-45 years old with PCOS attending to the OPD of our study site, during the study period of 4 months will be including in the study after taking information consent.

All the demographic and clinical detail of the patient will be filled in a predesign case report form.

To assess quality of life and to assess psychological burden "PCOSQOL 45-57" scale was used and score of above mention scale is calculated and recorded.

Statistical Analysis

All collected data were recorded into Microsoft excel After checking, appropriate coding of the data was done All the recorded data was analyzed using Microsoft excel All the quantitative data were represented in percentage (%) and mean + standard deviation.

Graphical representative was used for better understanding of data.

RESULTS

We collect the data from trial site Akanksha Hospital Anand (2nd September 2023 to 2nd march 2024).

Total one hundred twenty -seven patients of PCOS were enrolled in our study, out of them married total female patients of PCOS is more as compared to unmarried female patients.

Table 1. Detail about marital status

Married	Unmarried
102	25



Pie Chart 1. Marital status distribution in PCOS.

Total one hundred twenty -seven patients of PCOS from which one hundred two female patients were married and twentyfive patients were unmarried and according to percentage 80% percentage were married female patients and20% were unmarried female patients this data shown on pie chart 1 & Table 1.

We had included only age between 18 to 45; patients of age below18 or above 45 were excluded. In which the maximum

number of patients were found in the age group of 31- 35 year and total number of this age were 40, then in age of 18-25 age group we found 29 patients; in the age of 26 – 30 age group we found 33; in age of 36-40 age group we found 21 patients; and least number of patients had the age of 41-45 year and total number of this age were 4. This data is shown on graph 2 & Table 2.



Graph 2. Age distribution in PCOS.

In our study out of 127 patients,17 patients were found underweight BMI (>18.5), 23 patients were found normal BMI (18.5-24.9), 66 patients were found over weight BMI (25 – 29.9) & 20 patients were found obese (>30). In our study, Patients who more affected to the PCOS. Were profession of Job and number of this 38 (29.92%), house wife' s also affected by the PCOS (N=66, 51.96%) and other 23 students were also affected by the PCOS (18.11%).

Variables	Characteristics	Participants	%
	18 - 25	29	22.83%
	26 - 30	33	25.98%
Age (Year)	31 - 35	40	31.49%
	36 - 40	21	16.53%
	41 - 45	4	3.14%
	Married	102	80.31%
Marital Status	Unmarried	25	19.68%
	Under Weight (<18.5)	17	13.38%
	Normal (18.5 - 24.9)	23	18.11%
BMI	Over Weight (25 - 29.9)	67	52.75%
	Obese (>30)	20	15.74%
	Student	23	18.11%
Occupation	Job	38	29.92%
	Housewife	66	51.96%
	Present	57	44.88%
Family History	Absent	70	55.11%
Yes		42	33.07%
Medication History	No	85	66.92%

Table 2. Variables and characteristics of participants

There were 57 (44.88%) patients, who had a family history of PCOS and other 70 (55.11%) patients who hadn't find any type of family history of PCOS.

Total 127 patients, in which patients not taking any type of medication for PCOS were more (N=85, 66.92%) as compared

to the patients taking medication (N=42, 33.07%) for the PCOS.

In Physiological and emotional status, the agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participant were given in the below graph.



Chart 3. Physiological & Emotional status in PCOS.

Table 3. Physiological & Emotional status

Physiological & Emotional Status	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
1	85	30	12
2	54	45	28
3	54	52	21
4	68	49	10

Table 4. Questions of Physiological & Emotional status

Q	DUESTIONS
Suffered from bad mood due to PC	COS?

2 Suffered from low self-esteem due to PCOS?

1

- 3 Felt easily tired & fear of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension & heart diseases?
- 4 Felt of lack of family support and acceptance of disease?

In body image the Agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participants were given in the below graph.



Chart 4. Menstrual irregularities & Fertility in PCOS.

Menstrual Irregularities & Fertilities	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
5	82	38	7
6	55	53	19
7	69	40	18
8	63	40	24

Table 5. Menstrual irregularities status

Table 6. Questions of Menstrual irregularities status

	QUESTIONS
5	Felt concerned about menstruation at long intervals?
6	Felt concerned about cessation of menstruation?

- 7 Felt the regular need for oral contraceptive pills to control PCOS?
- 8 Felt the need to decrease your weight to control PCOS?

In body image the Agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participants were given in the below graph.



Chart 5. Body Image in PCOS.

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Table	7.	воау	image	status

Body Image	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
9	63	48	16
10	89	26	12

Table 8. Questions of Body Image status

QUESTIONS

9 Dissatisfied with some aspects of your appearance?

10 Felt others are speaking negatively about your appearance?

In hair disorder and acne, the Agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participants were given in the below graph.



Chart 6. Hair disorder & Acne in PCOS.

Table 9. Hair disorder & Acne status

Hair disorder and acne	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
11	61	47	19
12	61	45	21
13	58	48	21
14	100	19	8

Table 10. Questions of Hair disorder & Acne status

	QUESTIONS				
11	Felt embarrassed about having excess facial and body hair (Hirsutism)?				
12	Felt concerned about rapid regrowth of unwanted hair after its remove?				
13	Felt that acne is affecting your appearance?				
14	Felt that alopecia is affecting your appearance?				

In fertility & sexual life the Agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participants were given in the below graph.



Table 11. Fertility and Sexual life sta	itus
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Fertility and Sexual life	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
15	90	30	7
16	70	40	17
17	70	43	14

Table 12. Questions of Fertility and Sexual life status

QUESTIONS		
15	Felt a lack of sexual desire/ unsatisfied with sexual life?	
16	Felt sad seeing pregnant women & children?	
17	Felt fear of abortion?	

In Obesity & Menstrual disorder the Agree, highly agree and Disagree responses of number of participants were given in the below graph.



Chart 8. Obesity & Menstrual disorder in PCOS.

Hair disorder and acne	Agree	Highly Agree	Disagree
18	60	40	27
19	40	43	35
20	57	57	13

 Table 13. Obesity & Menstrual disorder status

Table 14. Questions of Obesity & Menstrual disorder status

	QUESTIONS
18	Felt concerned about being overweight?

19 Felt concerned about a fast return to your previous weight after any weight loss?

20 Felt for life style modification to minimize and control PCOS?

In overall 6 factors the agree responses were found in Hair disorder and Acne (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (11%).



Chart 9. Agree response of participants.

Table 15. Agree factors

Agree Factors			
Factors	Response		
Physiological & Emotional Status	261		
Menstrual Irregularities & Fertilities	269		
Body Images	152		
Hair disorder and acne	280		
Fertility and Sexual life	230		
Obesity and Menstrual Disorder	166		

In overall 6 factors the highly agree responses were found in Physiological and emotional status (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (9%).



Chart 10. Highly Agree response of participants.

Table 16.	Highly	agree	factors
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Highly Agree Factors			
Factors	Response		
Physiological & Emotional Status	176		
Menstrual Irregularities & Fertilities	171		
Body Images	74		
Hair disorder and acne	159		
Fertility and Sexual life	113		
Obesity and Menstrual Disorder	140		

In overall 6 factors the more disagree responses were found in obesity and menstrual disorder and (23%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (8%).



Chart 11. Disagree response of participants.

Table 17. Disagree factors

Disagree Factors			
Factors	Response		
Physiological & Emotional Status	71		
Menstrual Irregularitis & Fertilities	68		
Body Images	28		
Hair disorder and acne	51		
Fertility and Sexual life	38		
Obesity and Menstrual Disorder	75		

Response (N= 127) Sr. Highly Questionnaire No. Agree Disagree Agree Suffered from bad mood due to PCOS? Suffered from low self-esteem due to PCOS? Felt easily tired & fear of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension & heart diseases? Felt of lack of family support and acceptance of disease? Felt concerned about menstruation at long intervals? Felt concerned about cessation of menstruation? Felt the regular need for oral contraceptive pills to control PCOS? Felt the need to decrease your weight to control PCOS? Dissatisfied with some aspects of your appearance? Felt others speaking negatively about are your appearance? Felt embarrassed about having excess facial and body hair (Hirsutism)? Felt concerned about rapid regrowth of unwanted hair after its remove? Felt that acne is affecting your appearance? Felt that alopecia is affecting your appearance? Felt a lack of sexual desire/ unsatisfied with sexual life? Felt sad seeing pregnant women & children? Felt fear of abortion? Felt concerned about being overweight? Felt concerned about a fast return to your previous weight after any weight loss? Felt for life style modification to minimize and control PCOS?

Table 18. Evaluation of responses

Domain	Response	Mean	SD	%
	Agree	65.25	14.72	51.37%
Physiological & Emotional Status	Highly Agree	44	9.76	34.64%
	Disagree	17.75	8.34	13.97%
	Agree	67.25	11.38	52.95%
Menstrual Irregularitis & Fertilities	Highly Agree	42.75	6.89	33.66%
	Disagree	17	6.22	13.38%
Body Images	Agree	76	18.38	59.84%
	Highly Agree	37	15.55	29.13%
	Disagree	14	2.82	11.02%
	Agree	70	20.04	55.11%
Hair disorder and acne	Highly Agree	39.75	60.88	31.29%
	Disagree	17.25	6.23	13.58%
Fourility and Samuel life	Agree	76.66	11.54	60.36%
	Highly Agree	37.66	6.8	29.65%
	Disagree	12.66	5.13	9.97%
	Agree	58	9.53	45.66%
Obesity and Menstrual Disorder	Highly Agree	46.66	9.07	36.74%
	Disagree	25	11.13	19.68%

Table 19. Statistical analysis of responses

DISCUSSION

One of the major diseases that mostly affect the quality of patient's life is PCOS. The main factors of PCOS is Physiological & Emotional Status, Menstrual Irregularities & Fertilities, Body Images, Hair disorder and acne, Fertility and Sexual life and Obesity and Menstrual Disorder. There are many factors that affected to the confidence level of persons about her physical appearance.

The main aim of our study is to assess the quality of life in PCOS patients.

Assessment of quality of life

Quality of life it is defined as the feeling of joy and satisfaction with life. Quality of life (QOL), self-confidences and self-esteem in patients with PCOS diseases have not sufficiently been attended to. Since PCOS diseases affect wellbeing, general health, function, and social adaptation of the individual, they can decrease self-confidence of the patient and definitely disrupt self-image or body image, mental health, and quality of her life.

A. PCOSQoL 45-57

The aim of this questionnaire is to assess how much your PCOS problem has affected in life.

B. Uses of PCOSQoL 45-57

The PCOSQoL 45-57 questionnaire is designed for use in women. patients over the age of 18. It is self-explanatory and can be simply handed to the patient who is asked to fill it in without the need for detailed explanation. It is usually completed in one or two minutes.

Assessment of Psychological burden

In our study we had used PCOSQoL 45-57 scale for assess the psychological burden in patients with PCOS. It is a widely used instrument for assessing the symptoms of depression. It is used in many studies of depression and its treatment. The scale is designed to be applied by clinicians after structured or unstructured interview of patient to find out their symptoms of depression.

The scale is designed to assess depression by examine mood, feelings of sadness, low swelf esteem, fear of other disease symptoms.

The reason behind the use of this scale in our study is, this scale is easy to interpret without the help of any physician or doctor. Also, we assessed the depression instead of anxiety because the many studies show that PCOS patients are more suffer with depression than the anxiety.

In our study, we had evaluated each question result from the scale. Each question has the multiple options such as Agree, Highly Agree, Disagree, and we had calculated the number of patients and number of percentage form each option of individual question.

In overall 6 factors the more agree responses were found in hair and acne disorder (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (11%). Similarly, the highly agree responses were found in Physiological and emotional status (21%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (9%) and the more disagree responses were found in obesity and menstrual disorder and (23%) whereas, less number of responses were found in body images (8%) [10-29].

CONCLUSION

We studied the Quality of Life of PCOS patients. Investigation of the scale of PCOSQoL 45-57 showed that PCOS had impact on their emotions (self-embarrassment, self-esteem, feelings of sadness, self-confidences, overall emotional stability. In our study we collect the data of 127 participants in which 102 females were married & 25 females were unmarried, from these we concluded that PCOS is more affected in married females & lesser affected in unmarried females. As per our study we include 6 factors such as Physiological & Emotional status, Menstrual Irregularities and Infertility, Body Images, Hair Disorder and Acne, Fertility and Sexual life, Obesity and Menstrual Disorder and we found that Hair disorder and Acne is more affecting factor in PCOS Women & in contrast Body images is lesser affecting factor in PCOS women, we concluded it from PCOSQoL 45-57 Scale [30-38].

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

- Lack of information in some case sheets
- Time constraints
- Patients not providing the proper information regarding their addictions

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None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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