# Response to the letter to the editor: Commentary on "Information Needs of Patients with Cirrhosis of the Liver and Quality of Life"

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As noted in your letter, there are both generic and disease-specific tools available for measuring health-related quality of life (HRQoL). The SF-36 version 2 scale was selected for the study due to its accessibility, widespread use, and extensive validation in various languages, including Spanish. It has proven to be effective in different clinical settings. In contrast, the Liver Disease Quality of Life Instrument (LDQOL), though specifically designed for patients with cirrhosis, is more limited in its application. Moreover, while the LDQOL has been validated in Spanish, the validation was conducted in a European population, which means its results may not be directly generalizable to our study population[(1)].

It is also important to note that the questions included in the LDQOL are designed to detect changes in quality of life related to symptoms of advanced liver disease. However, our cohort primarily consisted of patients with compensated cirrhosis, for whom the SF-36 version 2 is more likely to capture variations in quality of life.

Lastly, we believe the suggestion to use a tool like the Support Needs Assessment for Cirrhosis (SNAC) is highly relevant, as it could have provided a more precise and structured assessment of the support service needs of this population. It is important to mention that although the data collection for the study was carried out in 2021, the research protocol was designed and submitted for approval to the Ethics Committee of Universidad de Cartagena in early 2020, at a time when information on the SNAC was not yet available. We sincerely appreciate your comments and will take them into account for future research in this area.

## REFERENCE

1. Yepes Barreto IJ, Londoño Múnera JP, Mejía Montoya PA. Necesidades de información de los pacientes con cirrosis hepática y calidad de vida. Rev Colomb Gastroenterol. 2024;39(1):14-28. https://doi.org/10.22516/25007440.1062


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