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Methodological Challenges in Mapping a Disease Specific Psychometric Instrument to a Disease Specific Utility Instrument

Regression techniques used to map disease-specific psychometric instruments to disease specific utility instruments have been proposed for the estimation of utility scores when data on the latter are not available. Here, using data from prostate cancer patients, we investigate potential improvement of the mapping when the utility scores are transformed prior to fitting the regression model. We also discuss the hypothesis that the performance of the mapping models is affected by the low correlation between the disease specific and non-specific items of the preference-based instrument and we present a couple of approaches that could be used for investigating this hypothesis.