Translation and Validation of Malay Version of the Simplified Diabetes Knowledge Test

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Introduction: Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a non-communicating disease with an increasing trend in Malaysia. One of the most important aspects in the self-management of diabetes mellitus is the assessment of knowledge among diabetes patients. This study aimed to translate and validate the Malay version of Modified Diabetes Knowledge Test (DKT) questionnaire. Methods: A standard back-to-back translation procedure was used to translate the simplified version of the DKT questionnaire from the original version. A total of 120 outpatients with type 2 diabetes mellitus from the government primary care clinic were selected to answer the questionnaire which consists of socio-demographic and diabetes characteristics questions as well as the 20-item DKT questions. Reliability and validity were tested with Cronbach’s alpha and Exploratory Factor Analysis. Results: The Cronbach’s alpha for the translated questionnaire was acceptable (α=0.573) with the Cronbach’s alpha excluding each item ranged from 0.517 to 0.602. Factor analysis with Varimax rotation identified 6 domains for the 18 items, with 2 to 6 items in each domain. Conclusion: This version of simplified DKT is proven to be valid and reliable, and can be used with caution as a brief assessment of knowledge among diabetic patients specifically tailored for Malaysian population.