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Summary

# DEVELOPMENT OF A GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOM SCALE FOR THE STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

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**A paediatric adaptation of the Structured Assessment of Gastrointestinal Symptoms (pSAGIS) tool demonstrated good psychometric properties and responsiveness to treatment in 1153 children and adolescents evaluated in a paediatric gastroenterology clinic.**

KEY POINTS

- The pSAGIS consists of 21 GI-related Likert-type questions, 8 dichotomous questions assessing extra-intestinal symptoms, and two most bothersome symptoms questions.
- Validation was performed on 2647 questionnaires from 1153 children/adolescents over 35 months, showing good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha 0.89) and a five-factor model covering abdominal pain, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, constipation, and dysphagia/nausea.
- In 32 children with inflammatory bowel disease, mean total GI-symptom score decreased significantly from 0.41±0.49 at baseline to 0.14±0.33 after one year of therapy ($p<0.01$), with four of five symptom domains showing significant improvement.
- The tool is proposed as a self-administered instrument that may standardize GI-symptom assessment and enable uniform clinical analysis of treatment outcomes in paediatric populations.

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