Title of measure:
FACT/NCCN-Head & Neck Symptom Index, a subset of the FACT- H&N containing 10 items (FHNSI-10)

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Brief overview:
The FHNSI-10 is a recently developed QOL instrument designed specifically for use with patients who have advanced and/or recurrent/refractory cancer of the Head and Neck. It is a more-symptom-focused index which is comprised of a 10 item subset of the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer (FACT-H&N), a well established measure of QOL (1). Disease-related symptoms and concerns from the FACT-H&N were presented to 65 experts in treating advanced Head and Neck Cancer. These experts then selected the five most important symptoms/concerns to assess in advanced Head and Neck Cancer treatment. The 10 items included in the FHNSI-10 represent those items endorsed by 20% or more of the medical experts (2).

Validated (yes/no):
Yes (3)

Psychometric properties and references:
An unpublished study by Yount, et al., evaluated the reliability, validity and sensitivity of the FHNSI (3). The effects of order of administration (FACT-HN first/FHNSI last vs. FHNSI first/FACT-HN last) and context (items administered embedded within the FACT-HN or as a stand-alone scale) were also assessed. The FHNSI showed high internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha 0.86-0.87), suggesting that the symptom index can be used as an independent measure of disease-related symptoms and functioning. An analysis of test-retest reliability demonstrated the stability of the stand-alone FHNSI, with an intraclass correlation of 0.89. A mixed effects model examining order and context effects revealed no significant differences in FHNSI scores between baseline administrations (embedded vs. stand-alone, first in battery vs. last) in the two groups.

In assessing convergent/divergent validity, correlations were found to be high between the FHNSI and the physical and functional well-being scales of the FACT-H&N (0.70 to 0.84) and

measures of pain intensity (-0.73 to -0.74) and depression (-0.71 to 0.74); moderate to large with the Performance Status Scale for Head and Neck (PSS-HN; range 0.46 to 0.71); and low with a measure of anxiety (0.30 to 0.34). Discriminant validity was demonstrated by the ability of the symptom index to differentiate patients grouped by ECOG performance status ($p<0.0001$) and global rating of change ($p<0.01$).

The FHNSI is a reliable and valid symptom index, which can be administered alone or scored using items embedded within the FACT-H&N questionnaire.

Normative data:
None available.

Clinically significant changes:
Based on the results of their study, the authors have recommended a minimally important difference range of 3-4 points for the FHNSI (3). It is suggested that the lower bound of the estimate be applied to group comparisons and the upper bound be applied to individual classification.

Website or how to register to use:
http://www.facit.org/

List any fees for usage:
None required for use of the English version.

Languages available:
English
French
Spanish
Thai
Zulu

Instructions for CRAs and or credentialing for administration:
Administration of the FHNSI-10 may be completed by employing the same methods used in administration of the FACT-H&N.

Time to administer instrument:
Five to ten minutes

Quality assurance for administration (if needed):
None.

Scoring of instrument:

Scoring of the FHNSI may be completed using the same procedure described for the FACT-G subscales. After reversing the proper items, responses are summed to produce a total score for the index.

References:

1. List MA, D'Antonio LL, Cella DF, et al. The Performance Status Scale for Head and Neck Cancer Patients and the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Head and Neck Scale. A study of utility and validity. Cancer 1996; 77:2294-301.
2. Cella D, Paul D, Yount S, et al. What are the most important symptom targets when treating advanced cancer? A survey of providers in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Cancer Invest 2003; 21:526-35.
3. Yount S, List MA, Du H, et al. A Randomized Study Comparing Embedded versus Extracted FACT - Head and Neck Symptom Index (FHNSI) Scores. (Currently unpublished).

Actual instrument:

See below.

FHNSI

Below is a list of statements that other people with your illness have said are important.
By circling one (1) number per line, please indicate how true each statement has been for you <u>during the past 7 days</u>.

		Not at all	A little bit	Some-what	Quite a bit	Very much
GP4	I have pain	0	1	2	3	4
GP1	I have a lack of energy	0	1	2	3	4
H&N7	I can swallow naturally and easily	0	1	2	3	4
H&N 12	I have pain in my mouth, throat, or neck	0	1	2	3	4
H&N3	I have trouble breathing	0	1	2	3	4
H&N10	I am able to communicate with others	0	1	2	3	4
GP2	I have nausea	0	1	2	3	4
H&N11	I can eat solid foods.....	0	1	2	3	4
GE6	I worry that my condition will get worse.....	0	1	2	3	4
GF7	I am content with the quality of my life right now ..	0	1	2	3	4