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

This summary was last revised 17 June 2010.

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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An unpublished study by Yount, et al., evaluated the reliability, validity and sensitivity of the FHNSI (3).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:


Actual instrument:

See below.
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 during the past 7 days.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little bit</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Very much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GP4</td>
<td>I have pain.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP1</td>
<td>I have a lack of energy.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N7</td>
<td>I can swallow naturally and easily.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N12</td>
<td>I have pain in my mouth, throat, or neck.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N3</td>
<td>I have trouble breathing.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N10</td>
<td>I am able to communicate with others.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP2</td>
<td>I have nausea.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N11</td>
<td>I can eat solid foods.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE6</td>
<td>I worry that my condition will get worse.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF7</td>
<td>I am content with the quality of my life right now.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>