

# Letter Presenting the Article on “Validation of the Spanish Translation of the Voice Handicap Index”

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In order to normalize the publication of diagnostic or therapeutic techniques and their results, the Phoniatria and Dysphagia Committee has set itself the general goal of adapting and disseminating the tools that may be of use in its sphere of action to otorhinolaryngologists in order to carry out their professional activities in accordance with internationally accepted protocols.

The Basic Protocol for Assessing Voice developed by the European Laryngological Society (ELS) was the first scientific framework that was adapted and disseminated through the SEORL's web page to act as a reference for the numerous professionals dealing with voice-related pathologies. This protocol revises the 5 aspects acting as the basis for a complete assessment of a voice disorder: perception, stroboscopy, aerodynamics, acoustic analysis, and the evaluation of the problem by the patient. This latter aspect is the way in which physicians can understand how patients live with their voice disorder.

Conventional techniques for the clinical and functional assessment of a medical condition do not completely reflect how illness and their treatment affect individuals. Many aspects of the patient's subjective experience, such as the frequency and severity of their symptoms, emotional and social wellbeing and health, and the perceived functional

capacity are major targets for handling an illness and cannot be measured by objective parameters.

The Voice Handicap Index is the most widespread tool in the international arena; translated into numerous languages, it is currently the most generalized way of expressing quantitatively the severity of the vocal disorder perceived by patients. For this reason, the Phoniatria Committee has taken upon itself to translate and make available to interested parties a Spanish-language version of the voice handicap index. Now, after several months of applying this version in the clinical setting, the questionnaire and its abbreviated version have been subjected to statistical validation.

This issue of *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española* publishes a paper entitled “Adaptation and Validation of the Spanish Voice Handicap Index (VHI-30) and its Shortened Version (VHI-10),” with the versions of the questionnaire recommended by the Phoniatria and Dysphagia Committee of the SEORL.

It is important to point out, as explained in the article itself, that the proposal recommended must be adapted to the community in which it is to be applied, bearing in mind the local peculiarities of our language.

It is the wish of our Committee to continue working to this end, with the collaboration and support of the professionals all our initiatives are aimed at.

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