

Advances in Health Outcomes Assessment: Implications for Clinical Practice

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Technological advances - including improved psychometric methods, computerized adaptive testing (CAT) software, and the connectivity provided by the Internet – are going to revolutionize the field of health outcomes assessment. These advances could hardly come at a better time. Clinicians have less time to spend with their patients and yet they are increasingly being held accountable for the results of their care in terms of the broader health-related quality of life outcomes that matter most to patients. To deal with this paradigm shift, clinical decision-makers need more *practical* tools to monitor health on a larger scale as well as more *precise* tools that meet the clinical standards of accuracy necessary for individual patient assessment.

In this presentation, Dr. Ware presents a demonstration of how advances in measurement methods first proven in education and psychology are now being tested in clinical research and practice. The goal is to solve the dilemma of how to achieve outcomes assessment tools that are more practical and more precise. In tests to date, 90% reductions in respondent burden and gains in precision have been achieved over a wide range of functional health levels. Implications for patient screening and health outcomes monitoring are discussed.

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