

Abstract

Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) provide essential information for clinical care, especially given time constraints in modern medicine. Electronic PRO collection methods like online surveys offer some advantages but also have inherent barriers that might exclude certain groups. This retrospective study analyzed 785 academic memory clinic patients and caregivers who were offered electronic pre-visit questionnaires and paper questionnaires in the clinic in not completed electronically. We examined demographic, disease, and caregiver factors associated with electronic, paper, or no questionnaire completion using mixed-effects logistic regression models. Advancing patient age was associated with increased electronic questionnaire completion by caregivers. Hispanic ethnicity correlated with decreased use, possibly from a lack of Spanish translation of the questionnaires. Medicaid insurance correlated with less electronic questionnaire use. Worse neurobehavioral symptoms and functional disability were associated with increased electronic use, while increased caregiver burden was associated with less. Electronic questionnaires may empower disclosure of sensitive information but they still risk excluding vulnerable groups. Ensuring all demographics are accounted for remains vital as medicine continues to adopt more digital data collection methods.