

VALIDATION OF THE GREEK VERSION OF FIRST (FIBROMYALGIA RAPID SCREENING TOOL); PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS

FIRST (Fibromyalgia Rapid Screening Tool) is a simple self-administered questionnaire for the detection of fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) in both daily practice and clinical research. The aim of our study was to validate the FIRST in the Greek language.

METHODS

The study was set up as a prospective observational study. The original French version of FIRST was translated to Greek using the forward and backward method. Pilot testing of the final Greek version was implemented with 10 volunteer patients to ensure that participants would interpret each item as originally intended. No further adaptations were required.

Patients with chronic diffuse pain, diagnosed with either FMS or osteoarthritis (OA) according to the American College of Rheumatology criteria were invited to participate.

The test–retest reliability of the total score of the questionnaire was assessed within 7 days after the first visit, in a subset of patients whose treatment was not modified after the first visit.

RESULTS

Out of the 122 patients recruited so far (83.6% females, mean age 61.5±15 years), 59 were diagnosed with FMS and 63 with OA.

Among these patients, using a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis, the area under the curve (AUC) was 0.85. A cutoff point of 5 resulted in a sensitivity and a specificity of more than 80%.

Retest results showed that the FIRST questionnaire has good test–retest stability, with intraclass correlation coefficient for the total score being 0.91.

FMS DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA (EXCERPT CRITERIA)	
A patient satisfies diagnostic criteria for fibromyalgia if the following 3 conditions are met:	
1. Widespread Pain Index (WIP) ≥ 7 and Symptom Severity (SS) scale score ≥ 5 or WIP 3–6 and SS scale score ≥ 9	
2. Symptoms have been present at a similar level for at least 3 months	
3. Patient does not have a disorder that would otherwise explain the pain	

Table 1. Fibromyalgia diagnostic criteria

You have been suffering from joint, muscle or tendon pain for the past 3 months at least. Please answer this questionnaire in order to help your doctor evaluate your pain and symptoms more effectively.	
Please fill in this questionnaire by answering either yes or no (only 1 answer: YES or NO) to each of the following statements. Put a cross in the box that corresponds to your answer.	
	Yes No
I have pain all over my body	
My pain is accompanied by a continuous and very unpleasant general fatigue	
My pain feels like burns, electric shocks or cramps	
My pain is accompanied by other unusual sensations throughout my body, such as pins and needles, tingling or numbness	
My pain is accompanied by other health problems such as digestive problems, urinary problems, headaches or restless legs	
My pain has a significant impact on my life, particularly on my sleep and my ability to concentrate, making me feel slower generally	

Table 2. English version of FIRST

	Fibromyalgia (n=59)	OA (n=63)	p
Demographic characteristics			
Female sex (%)	56 (94.9)	46 (73.0)	0.001
Age, in years (SD)	51.9 (10.3)	70.5 (13.0)	<0.001
Pain characteristics			
Duration, in months (SD)	11.3 (10.0)	7.3 (7.2)	0.012
VAS score (SD)	7.7 (1.5)	8.1 (1.4)	0.150
Number of painful points (SD)	13.4 (3.2)	3.3 (4.5)	<0.001

Table 3. Study population characteristics

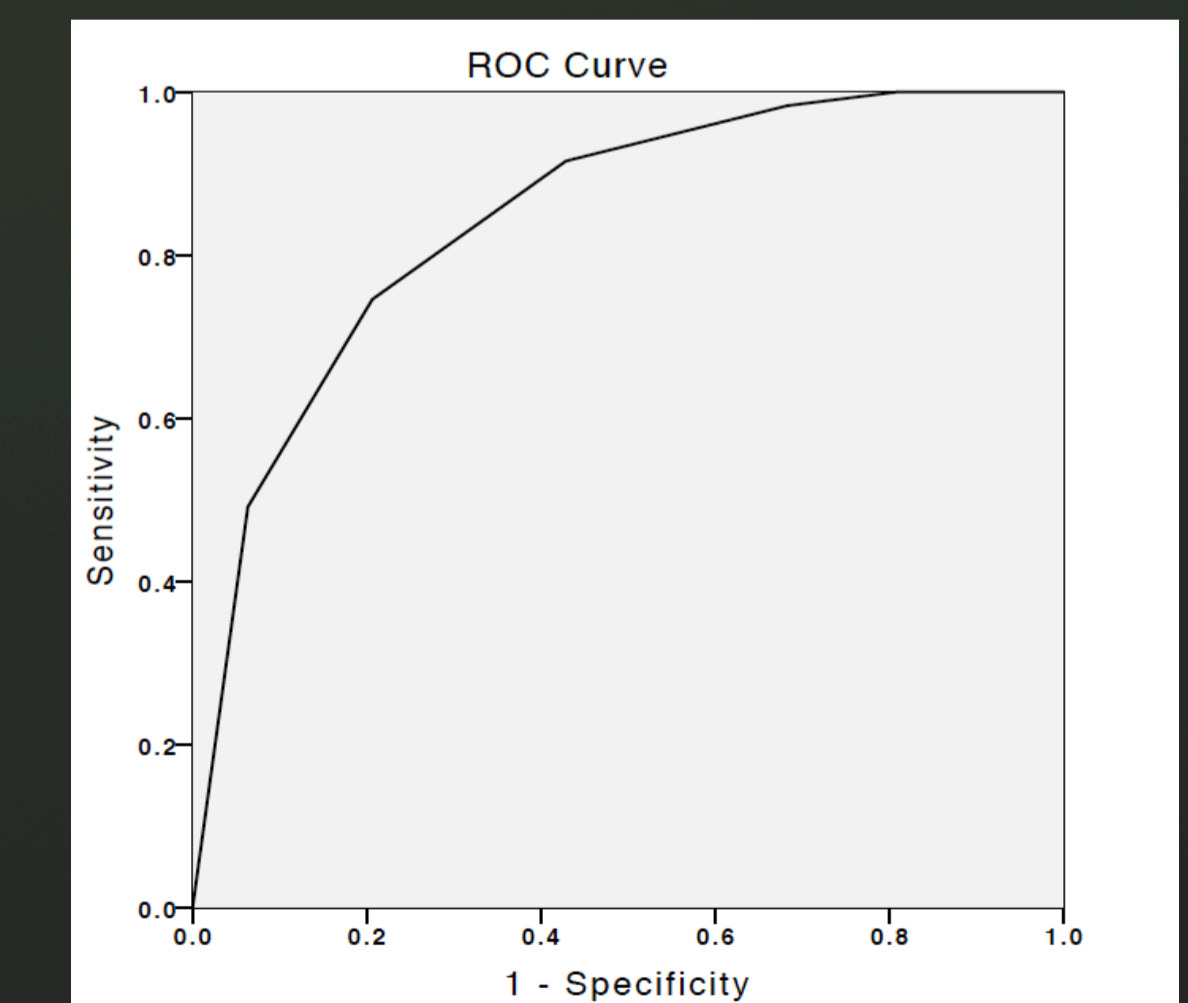


Figure 1. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve

CONCLUSION The Greek version of FIRST is a valid tool for diagnosing FMS in daily practice.