

Scar assessment using Scar-Q: Japanese language translation of
this patient-oriented outcome scale

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Medical professionals often evaluate scars and keloids by using scales such as the Vancouver Scar Scale and the JSW Scar Scale (Keloids and Hypertrophic Scars Classification and Evaluation Chart): the latter was developed in Japan. However, these assessments are often inconsistent with patient-based assessments of their own scar. To address this, patient-reported outcomes are increasingly being assessed along with the objective assessments by medical personnel. One such patient-reported scar outcome scale is Scar-Q, which assesses the appearance, symptoms, and psychosocial impact of scars. It was developed in 2018 by McMaster University, Canada and is now generally accepted by the scar community. In the present study, we developed Scar-Q_J, a Japanese version of Scar-Q. To translate the English version into Japanese, we employed the four steps of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), namely, forward translation, back translation, back translation review, and patient interviews. We plan to verify the validity of Scar-Q_J in patients in a coming study that also employs the Vancouver Scar Scale and the JSW Scar Scale. Furthermore, we will use Scar-Q_J and the objective scar measures to evaluate the scars that arise in various flap donor sites after reconstructive surgery. This analysis will then be used to establish an algorithm that helps reconstructive surgeons to select the donor site that best meets both surgical requirements and patient preferences.