## **AE-QoL**

## **Quality of Life Questionnaire for Patients with Recurrent Swelling Episodes**

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Date questionnaire completed (dd mmm yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**Instructions**: This questionnaire asks a number of questions. Please read each question carefully and choose from the five answers the one that fits best for you. Please do not think too long about the questions; be sure to answer all of the questions and to give only one answer to each question, i.e., to check only one box for each question.

Indicate how often within the <b>last 4 weeks</b> you have been restricted in the areas of your daily life listed below because of swelling episodes (angioedema). (regardless of whether or not you have actually experienced swelling episodes during that time period)	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very often
1. Work					
2. Physical activity					
3. Leisure time					
4. Social relations					
5. Eating and drinking					
In the following questions we would like to get more details about the difficulties and problems that may be associated with your recurrent swelling episodes (angioedema) (during the <b>last 4 weeks</b> )	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very often
6. Do you have difficulty falling asleep?					
7. Do you wake up during the night?					
8. Are you tired during the day because you are not sleeping well at night?					
9. Do you have trouble concentrating?					

In the following questions we would like to get more details about the difficulties and problems that may be associated with your recurrent swelling episodes (angioedema) (during the <b>last 4 weeks</b> )	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very often
10. Do you feel depressed?					
11. Do you have to limit your choices of food or beverages?					
12. Do the swelling episodes place a burden on you?					
13. Are you afraid that a swelling episode could occur suddenly?					
14. Are you afraid that the frequency of the swelling episodes might increase?					
15. Are you ashamed to go out in public because of the swelling episodes?					
16. Do the swelling episodes make you embarrassed or self-conscious?					
17. Are you afraid that the treatment of the swelling episodes could have negative long-term effects for you?					

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# Instructions for evaluation of the AE-QoL

## The structure of AE-QoL

The AE-QoL consists of four domains and a total score:

Domain	Item (Question)
Functioning	1. Impairment of work
	2. Impairment of physical activity
	3. Impairment of spare time activities
	4. Impairment of social relations
Fatigue/Mood	6. Difficulties of falling asleep
	7. Waking up during the night
	8. Feeling tired during the day
	9. Difficulties in concentrating
	10. Feeling downhearted
Fears/Shame	12. Feeling burdened at having swellings
	13. Fear of new suddenly appearing swellings
	14. Fear of increased frequency of swellings
	15. Ashamed to visit public places
	16. Embarrassed by the apppearence of swellings
	17. Fear of long term negative drug effects
Nutrition	5. General limitations in foods and eating
	11. Limitations in the selection of food and beverages
Total Score	Items 1 to 17

### How to calculate AE-QoL domain scores and the AE-QoL total score

AE-QoL is meant to be evaluated by determining its four individual domain scores (application as a profile instrument) but it may also be used to determine a total score (application as an index instrument):

Each item answered by the patient scores between 0 and 4 points depending on the answer option chosen by the patient. The 1<sup>st</sup> answer option gets 0 points, the 2<sup>nd</sup> option 1 point, the 3<sup>rd</sup>

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option 2 points, etc. (Never=0, Rarely=1, Occasionally=2, Often=3, Very often=4) The AE-QoL domain scores as well as the AE-QoL total score are calculated by using the following formula:

Sum of all completed items x 100 = AE-QoL Score Max. possible sum of all completed items

#### **Computation of Total Score:**

Example 1:	All items were completed (Max. possible sum: 68 points) Sum of all 17 completed items: 41 points
41 x 100 = 68	60 → AE-QoL Total Score = 60 out of possible 100 points
Example 2:	2 items were not completed (Max. possible sum: 60 points). Sum of all 15 completed items: 41 points
41 x 100 = 60	68 $\rightarrow$ AE-QoL Total Score = 68 out of possible 100 points

#### Computation of Domain Scores (Example: Fears/Shame):

*Example:* Sum of all 6 completed items: 14 points Max possible sum: 24 points

14 ------ x 100 = 58 → Fears/Shame Score = 58 out of possible 100 points 24

### **Remarks**

Since only answered items are included in the computation (and the calculated domain and total scores are not raw scores but linear transformations to a 0 to 100 scale), the calculated scores are not or only little influenced by missing items.

An AE-QoL domain score should not be calculated if more than one item is left unasnwered in that domain. The AE-QoL total score should not be calculated if more than 25% of items (>4 items) are left unanswered.

The minimal and highest possible domain and total scores are 0 and 100, respectively.

#### **References:**

Weller K, Groffik A, Magerl M, Tohme N, Martus P, Krause K, Metz M, Staubach P, Maurer M. Development and construct validation of the angioedema quality of life questionnaire. Allergy. 2012; 67(10): 1289-98.

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