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Editorial

Why does EFAS validate the EFAS Score in non-native European languages, such as Persian?



The Score Committee of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS) developed, validated, and published the EFAS Score in nine European languages (English, German, French, Italian, Polish, Dutch, Swedish, Finnish, Turkish) [1,2]. Language-specific cross-cultural validation of a given score is necessary because simple translation of a validated score does not necessarily result in an instrument that provides valid scores in the target language [1,2]. This issue is especially important for Europe, where numerous languages are spoken [1]. The most spoken mother tongues in Europe are German (18%), English (13%), Italian (13%), French (12%), Spanish (8%), Polish (8%), Romanian (5%) and Dutch (4%).² In addition to all these originally European languages, other languages, such as Persian and Arabic, are spoken as mother tongue by a growing number of immigrants.² There are no more or less important languages. However, the number of mother tongue speakers differ, and the validation of the Spanish score version with 38 million mother tongue speakers in Europe will inevitably result in more score users than, for example, the Estonian score version with 1.1 million mother tongue speakers.² When examining the worldwide distribution of mother tongue speakers, this difference increases (Spanish, 480 million; Portuguese, 221 million; Estonian, 1.1 million).² In this context, the validation in other than originally European languages is a logical step to spread the score to, for example, Persian (70 million mother tongue speakers) or Arabic (310 million mother tongue speakers).² From the very beginning of this project, the data acquisition times differed markedly between countries, and the

COVID crisis further delayed the data acquisition in some countries. The EFAS Score Committee planned clustered publication of more than one score version as done before [1,2]. Currently, only complete data from Persian language were available, and the Score Committee decided to publish this without delay by waiting for completed data from other languages [3].

References

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² Wikipedia, May 11, 2021.