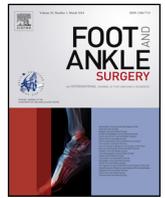




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# Foot and Ankle Surgery

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## Editorial

### EFAS Score Committee – Update 2020



A scientifically sound validated foot and ankle specific outcome measure for different European languages was missing [1]. The European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS) established in 2013 a Score Committee to develop, validate, and publish a new score, the “EFAS Score”, which is not specific for single pathologies for different European languages. The principal aim of this project was to develop and validate the EFAS Score simultaneously for different European languages. The founding core committee members were Per-Henrik Agren, Jean-Luc Besse, Maria Cöster, Hakon Kofoed, Nicola Maffulli, Martinus Richter, Dieter Rosenbaum, and Martijn Steultjens. This committee developed the score during several personal meetings and extensive “online” communication. The EFAS Score was developed and validated in three stages: (1) item (question) identification, (2) item reduction and scale exploration, (3) confirmatory analyses and responsiveness. The following score specifications were chosen: scale/subscale (Likert 0–4), questionnaire based, outcome measure, patient related outcome measurement. For stage 3, data were collected pre-operatively and post-operatively at a minimum follow-up of 3 months and mean follow-up of 6 months. Item reduction, scale exploration, confirmatory analyses and responsiveness were executed using analyses from classical test theory and item response theory. The initial validation (Step 1–2) was performed in English, German, French and Swedish. Michael Stephens contributed data for the English version. The final validation was performed in the initial four languages plus Dutch, Polish and Italian. Andrzej Boszczyk, Kris Buedts, Marco Guelfi, Henryk Liszka, Jan-Willem Louwerens, Elena Samaila and Angelique G. H. Witteveen contributed the data for the additional three languages. This multi-language EFAS Score was successfully validated in the orthopaedic ankle and foot surgery patient population, including a wide variety of foot and ankle pathologies [1]. All score versions were freely available at [www.efas.co](http://www.efas.co). Other European language versions (Danish, Finnish, Hungarian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish) and a

Persian version were translated and the validation process was started. Fernando Alvarez, Nuno Corte Real Martin Nsubuga, Sandor Paior, Jeanette Penny, Jussi P. Repo, Amir Vosoughi and Esat Uygur guided this process in their countries. The Finnish and Turkish score versions were successfully validated in the beginning of 2020 (Data contribution by Emre Baca, Oemer Bueyuektopcu, Mehmet U. Ciftci, Kaan Irgit, Antti Latvala, Mikko Miettinen, Jussi P. Repo, Esat Uygur) [2]. The remaining language versions are still under validation.

In conclusion, after seven years of hard work, the EFAS Score Committee has successfully validated and published nine different EFAS Score language version covering 75% of all mother tongue languages in Europe. More language versions are under validation. Other languages are still missing, and the EFAS Score Committee encourages all foot and ankle surgeons in these countries to start the validation process for their language version. Please contact the EFAS Score Committee for support and instructions.

Finally, I thank all EFAS Score Committee members and contributors for their enormous efforts. I also thank EFAS for founding the committee and the ongoing support.

#### References

- [1] Richter M, Agren PH, Besse JL, Coster M, Kofoed H, Maffulli N, et al. EFAS Score – multilingual development and validation of a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) by the score committee of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS). *Foot Ankle Surg* 2018;24(3):185–204.
- [2] Richter M, Agren PH, Besse JL, Coester M, Kofoed H, Maffulli N, et al. EFAS Score – Validation of Finnish and Turkish Versions by the Score Committee of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS). *Foot Ankle Surg* 2020;26(3):250–253.

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