Decisional equipoise is not decisional conflict: avoiding the false clarity bias in the evaluation of decision aids and Shared Decision Making processes.

Kaltoft, Mette Kjer; Salkeld, Glenn; Cunich, Michelle; Nielsen, Jesper Bo; Dowie, Jack

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AIMS: To question the construct validity of using ‘sureness’ questions, such as items 10–12 in the Decisional Conflict Scale (DCS) [5, 6] and item 1 in the SURE [4] instruments, in evaluating decision aids and processes. To investigate empirically the extent of equipoise in a trial of decision aids [1,2] using the expected value of combining evidence-based Ratings with personal criterion Weightings as individual’s Option Scores. To establish relationship between equipoise and decision quality as self-assessed by MyDecisionQuality (MDQ) [3], a dually-personalised instrument not including ‘sureness’.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Evaluations of decision aids and Shared or unshared Decision Making processes, should accept that equipoise is a possible and sensitive measure.
- There was virtually no correlation between the Absolute Difference in the Option Scores and Decision Quality self-assessed by MDQ.

# Decisional equipoise is not decisional conflict: Avoiding the false clarity bias in the evaluation of decision aids and shared decision making processes

Mette Kjer Kaltoft, Jack Dowie, Robin Turner, Jesper Bo Nielsen, Glenn Salkeld, Michelle Cunich

1 University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark; 2 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK; 3 University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; 4 University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

# Decisional Conflict Score

**RESULTS FOR SCREENING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient ID</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Weightings</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSA Screening</td>
<td>No PSA Screening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2712</td>
<td>0.146</td>
<td>0.0995</td>
<td>0.0731</td>
<td>0.036</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SURE**

Respondent 2712 shows .01 Absolute Difference between PSA and No PSA Scores, combining evidence-based Ratings with personal criterion Weightings

**RESULTS FOR DECISION QUALITY**

| MDQ Score of respondent 2712 (combining his Weightings and Ratings) = .733. Overall correlation of MDQ Score and Absolute Difference for 727 respondents = .66. |

Further information: mkaltof@health.sdu.dk and www.healthdecisions.org.au

Jack Dowie has a financial interest in Annalisa, but did not benefit from use in the trial concerned.