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# Validation of the Spanish version of the 12-item Speech, Spatial and Qualities of Hearing (SSQ12) questionnaire

## Preliminary results

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**Introduction:** The use of questionnaires in Audiology allows for the evaluation of auditory functionality in people who present with a hearing loss. The Speech, Spatial and Qualities of Hearing (SSQ) questionnaire has been shown to be a useful tool for different clinical populations. Its shortened version is now available, consisting of 12 items (SSQ12). Although this version has been translated into different languages, the validation of the Spanish version is presented here.

**Objectives:** To validate the SSQ12 questionnaire - Spanish version.

**Material and Method:** 93 adults ( $M = 60.3$  years,  $SD = 14.0$ ) were evaluated, including both normal hearing and hearing impaired participants. The questionnaire was presented in an interview format.

**Results:** The SSQ12 questionnaire presented a high internal consistency (12 items;  $\alpha = .87$ ). Significant differences were observed across questions and subscales (Speak:  $M = 8.4$ ,  $SD = 1.2$  vs.  $M = 5.5$ ,  $SD = 2.4$ ; Spatial:  $M = 9.3$ ,  $SD = 1.0$  vs.  $M = 6.5$ ,  $SD = 2.8$ ; Qualities:  $M = 8.9$ ,  $SD = 1.6$  vs.  $M = 6.3$ ,  $SD = 2.3$ ; and Total:  $M = 8.8$ ,  $SD = 1.0$  vs.  $M = 6.0$ ,  $SD = 2.3$ ) between normal ( $n=25$ ) and hearing loss ( $n=68$ ) individuals. There was a significant correlation between mean pure tones (PTA for 0.5, 1, 2 and 4 kHz) and SSQ12 scores ( $r = -.504$ )

**Discussion:** Individuals who presented with a hearing loss showed significantly lower SSQ12 scores compared to the normal hearing group. Within the three scales, hearing impaired participants reported the greatest difficulty with scenarios where speech is presented in adverse conditions (eg. noise, multiple speakers, etc.).

**Conclusions:** The SSQ12 questionnaire in Spanish promises to be a valid tool that can be used in the functional assessment of hearing in the Spanish speaking population, as it is easy to administer and requires a short time to answer. This will allow its use in clinical practice, as well as in the case of aural rehabilitation programs with adults.

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