Development and validation of the Hearing and Functioning in Everyday Life Questionnaire (HFEQ)
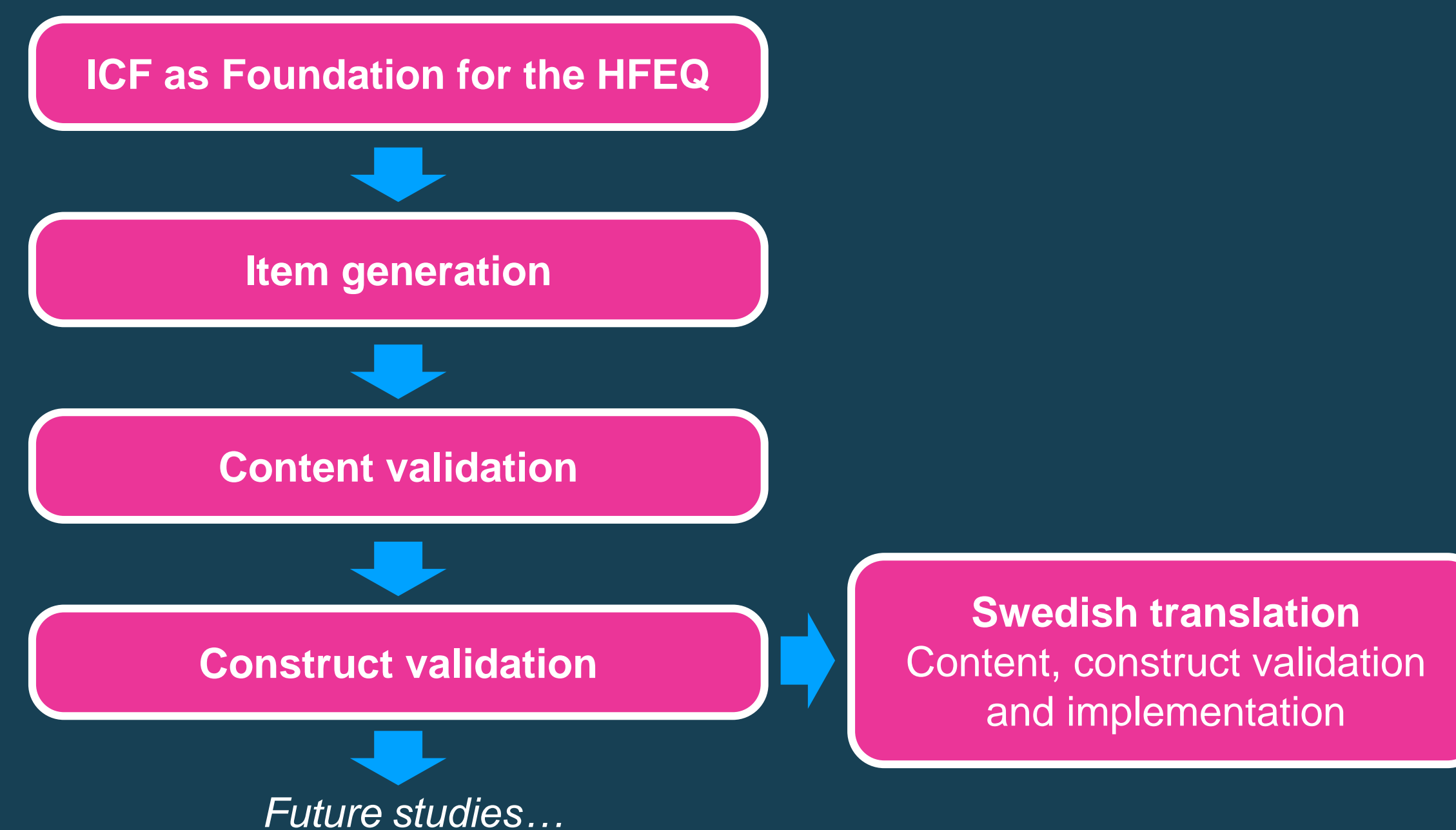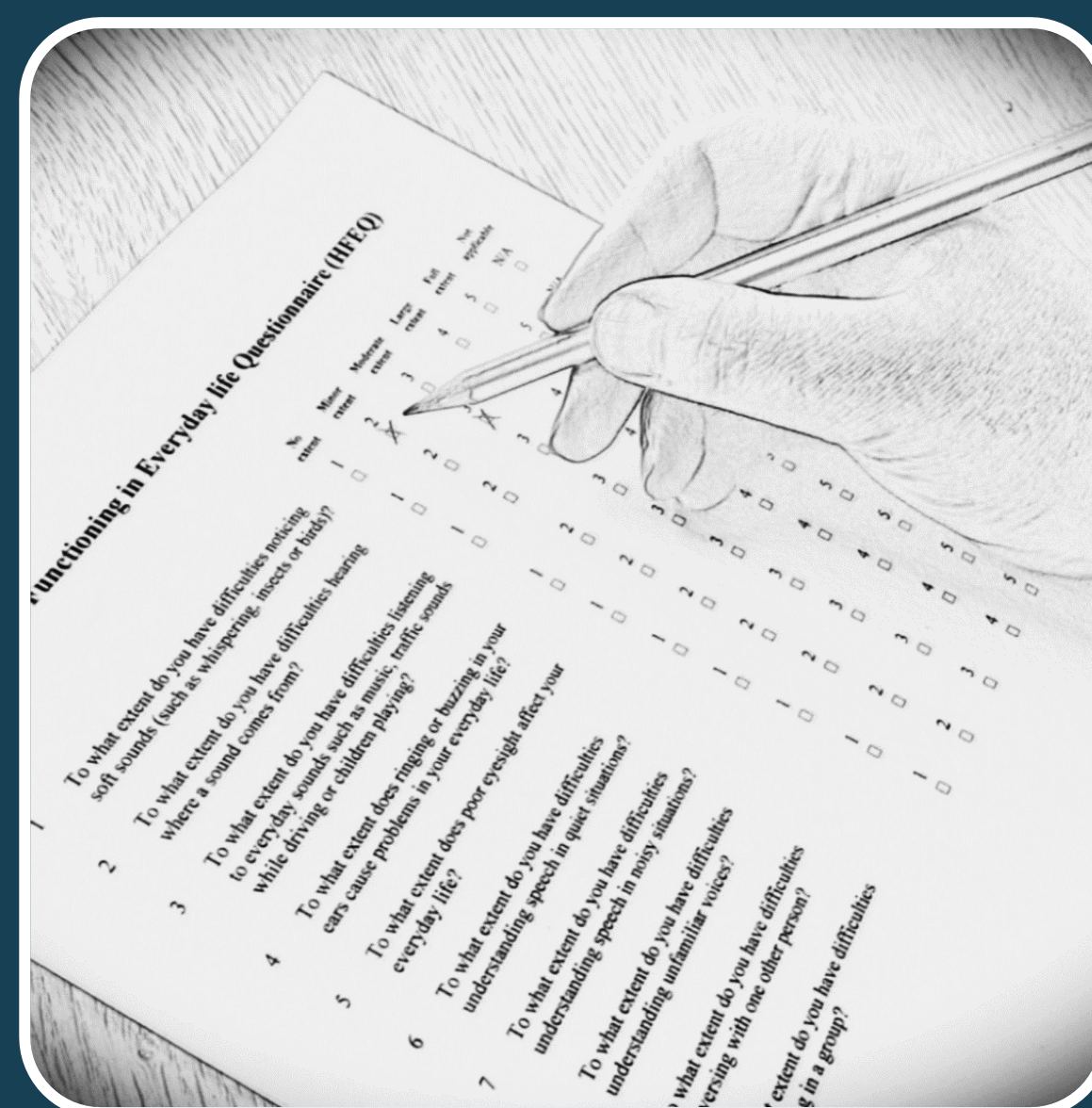
Karlsson, E.[1], Mäki-Torkko, E.[1], Granberg, S.[1], Widén, S.[1], Manchaiah, V.[2], Swarnalatha Nagaraj.[3], V., Pichora-Fuller, K.M.[4], Selb, M.[5], Swanepoel, D.W.[6], Yerraguntla, K.[7], & Gustafsson, J[1].

BACKGROUND AND AIM

Self-assessment instruments are commonly used in audiological rehabilitation. However, several studies highlight the lack of multidimensionality in existing outcome measures, with the consequence that they only partially capture aspects of functioning in everyday life for people living with hearing loss

The aim of the current study was to develop a new self-assessment instrument, the Hearing and Functioning in Everyday Life questionnaire (HFEQ), with the purpose to assess the everyday functioning of adults with hearing loss for use in clinical audiological settings as well as within research on adults with hearing loss. Moreover, the aim was to investigate the content validity of HFEQ.

ICF as Foundation for the HFEQ
↓
Item generation
↓
Content validation
↓
Construct validation → Swedish translation
Content, construct validation and implementation
↓
Future studies…

METHODS

- An item-generation process during an experts' workshop.

- A multicenter international content validation of HFEQ, using group interviews.

- For the content validation, 30 adults with hearing loss participated. The results were analyzed by qualitative content analysis.

RESULTS

- The expert's workshop resulted in the first version of the HFEQ containing 30 items.

- The results from the group interviews showed that the content of the HFEQ was valid concerning its' relevance, comprehensiveness and comprehensibility.

- A majority (73%) of the HFEQ items were perceived by the participants as relevant and easy to comprehend.

- For the remaining 27% of the items, the content was perceived to be relevant in all countries, but some terms and expressions were reported to require rewording or clearer examples.

Table - Demographic information

Variable	Participants n (%)
Country	
India	17 (56.7)
South Africa	3 (10.0)
The US	10 (33.3)
Gender	
Women	6 (20)
Age (years)	mean 63.6, SD 18.4; range 23–87
Degree of hearing loss	
Mild (25 – 40 dB HL)	10 (33.3)
Moderate (41–70 dB HL)	14 (46.7)
Severe/profound (≥71 dB HL)	6 (20)
Hearing aid users	24 (80)
Education	
High school	5 (16.7)
University	25 (83.3)
Employed	24 (80)

CONCLUSION

The HFEQ has the potential to become a valuable new instrument for assessing everyday functioning in people with hearing loss within audiological rehabilitation and in research. Further psychometric validation is required to investigate other psychometric properties, such as construct validity and reliability.

Reference to the article and to the HFEQ web page

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