Background: Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) is a common and often dose-limiting side effect of chemotherapy that can result in disability and poorer quality of life. However, no standardized measurement for CIPN exists. Clinicians often base decisions for dose modification or discontinuation of a chemotherapeutic agent on patient report of subjective symptoms and physical examination.

Objectives: This review is designed to identify valid and reliable assessment tools that measure or assess CIPN in adult patients receiving chemotherapy.

Methods: A systematic literature review was conducted using PubMed, CINAHL®, and Cochrane Library. Articles were included if their primary purpose was to evaluate the psychometric properties of scales to measure CIPN in adult patients with cancer receiving neurotoxic chemotherapeutic agents.

Findings: The search yielded 143 results, with 16 articles meeting criteria for inclusion in the review. Seven unique scales and their reduced and modified versions were examined. The majority of the questionnaires were evaluated in a single tumor type, primarily with taxanes and platinum compounds. No consensus exists on the most appropriate patient self-report scale for use in the general oncology population.

Kristin R. Curcio, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, AOCNP®, is a clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. The author takes full responsibility for the content of the article. The author did not receive honoraria for this work. The content of this article has been reviewed by independent peer reviewers to ensure that it is balanced, objective, and free from commercial bias. No financial relationships relevant to the content of this article have been disclosed by the author, planners, independent peer reviewers, or editorial staff. Mention of specific products and opinions related to those products do not indicate or imply endorsement by the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing or the Oncology Nursing Society. Curcio can be reached at kristin.curcio@gmail.com, with copy to editor at CJONEditor@ons.org. (Submitted April 2015. Revision submitted June 2015. Accepted for publication July 13, 2015.)

Key words: chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy; scales; questionnaires; instruments; psychometric properties

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/16.CJON.20-01AP