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Assessing internal construct validity of DAPSA and DAPSA28 in psoriatic arthritis: a European observational study using confirmatory factor analysis and additional psychometric testing

This study assessed whether two commonly used scores for psoriatic arthritis disease activity, DAPSA and DAPSA28, validly and reliably measure what they are intended to measure. DAPSA includes tender and swollen joint counts, C-reactive protein, patient global assessment, and pain; DAPSA28 uses a shorter 28-joint count. Using data from 1,863 European patients, the researchers found that both scores showed acceptable internal validity and reliability overall. DAPSA and DAPSA28 were also highly correlated, suggesting that the shorter DAPSA28 may often provide similar information. Also, some differences were found between countries and between sexes, meaning that the scores may not work exactly the same in all patient groups.

These findings are important because rheumatologists use disease activity scores to guide treatment decisions. The results support the continued use of DAPSA and DAPSA28, while also highlighting that further research is needed to ensure fair and accurate assessment across different patient groups. For patients, this may help improve disease monitoring and treatment decisions.

Link to the publication: Assessing internal construct validity of DAPSA and DAPSA28 in psoriatic arthritis: a European observational study using confirmatory factor analysis and additional psychometric testing at <https://doi.org/10.1136/rmdopen-2025-006104>