# Instruments Measuring Pain, Physical Function, or Patient's Global Assessment in Hand Osteoarthritis: A Systematic Literature Search

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***ABSTRACT.*** ***Objective.*** Description of use and metric properties of instruments measuring pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment (PtGA) in hand osteoarthritis (OA).

***Methods.*** Medical literature databases up to January 2014 were systematically reviewed for studies reporting on instruments measuring pain, physical function, or PtGA in hand OA. The frequency of the use of these instruments were described, as well as their metric properties, including discrimination (reliability, sensitivity to change), feasibility, and validity.

***Results.*** In 66 included studies, various questionnaires and performance- or assessor-based instruments were applied for evaluation of pain, physical function, or PtGA. No major differences regarding metric properties were observed between the instruments, although the amount of supporting evidence varied. The most frequently evaluated questionnaires were the Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index (AUSCAN) pain subscale and visual analog scale (VAS) pain for pain assessment, and the AUSCAN function subscale and Functional Index for Hand OA (FIHOA) for physical function assessment. Excellent reliability was shown for the AUSCAN and FIHOA, and good sensitivity to change for all mentioned instruments; additionally, the FIHOA had good feasibility. Good construct validity was suggested for all mentioned questionnaires. The most commonly applied performance- or assessor-based instruments were the grip and pinch strength for the assessment of physical function, and the assessment of pain by palpation. For these measures, good sensitivity to change and construct validity were established.

***Conclusion.*** The AUSCAN, FIHOA, VAS pain, grip and pinch strength, and pain on palpation were most frequently used and provided most supporting evidence for good metric properties. More research has to be performed to compare the different instruments with each other. (J Rheumatol First Release October 15 2015; doi:10.3899/jrheum.141228)

*Key Indexing Terms:*
OSTEOARTHRITIS HAND PAIN PHYSICAL FUNCTION
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Hand osteoarthritis (OA) is a highly prevalent disorder, characterized by bony enlargements and deformities[1,2,3]. Most studies on individuals with OA are based on the general population. Individuals with hand OA can experience symptoms such as pain, decreased grip strength, and disability, leading to a high clinical burden[4,5,6]. In clinical practice, treatment for patients with hand OA (individuals with hand OA seeking healthcare) is administered to decrease symptoms and improve function; however, the evidence to support these treatments is limited because few high-quality clinical trials have been performed in hand OA[7,8].

An important problem in the lack of high-quality clinical trials in hand OA is the lack of standardization of outcome measures[8]. Therefore, the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) and the Osteoarthritis Research Society International Task Force on Clinical Trials Guidelines defined core domains to describe outcomes in clinical trials on symptom modification, consisting of pain, physical function, and patient's global assessment (PtGA)[9,10,11,12].

For the assessment of these domains, several patient-reported outcome measures are available. Hand OA-specific

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questionnaires such as the Functional Index for Hand OA (FIHOA) and the Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index (AUSCAN)[13,14] have been developed, but also hand disorder- or arthritis-specific questionnaires such as the Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire (MHQ), Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale-2 (AIMS-2), and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), to assess 1 or more of these domains[15,16,17]. In addition, physical function can be assessed using performance-based measures such as the grip or pinch strength or the Arthritis Hand Function Test (AHFT). In addition to self-report and performance-based instruments, assessor-based measures such as joint tenderness upon palpation are used for the assessment of pain[18,19]. Besides the above-mentioned questionnaires and assessor- or performance-based measures, several other instruments, which will be described in this manuscript, are used for the clinical assessment of hand OA. Although most available instruments have been shown to be reliable for the measurement of pain, physical function, or PtGA, a systematic comparison of the different instruments for the assessment of hand OA has not been performed.

Our study was conducted in the framework of the OMERACT hand OA working group, aiming to identify instruments for the measurement of pain, physical function, and PtGA in hand OA that can be recommended for use in clinical trials on OA. Therefore, insight into available instruments and their metric properties is needed. To this end, we performed a systematic literature review aiming to describe the frequency of use of available instruments measuring pain, physical function, or PtGA in studies on hand OA, and to describe the metric properties of these instruments[20]. Metric properties were described using the OMERACT filter[21], focusing on the aspects of discrimination (reliability and sensitivity to change), feasibility, and truth (validity).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

*Study design and identification of studies*. The study design and performance followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines[20]. In cooperation with a medical librarian (JWS), a systematic literature search was performed to obtain all manuscripts reporting on instruments measuring pain, physical function, or PtGA in hand OA. Medical literature databases (PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, COCHRANE, CINAHL, Academic Search Premier, and ScienceDirect) were searched from the date of their inception up to January 2014, using all variations of the following key words: "hand," "osteoarthritis," "outcome assessment," "reliability," "sensitive," "feasibility," and "validity" (Supplementary Data available from the authors on request).

*Inclusion and exclusion criteria*. First, all retrieved titles were screened, subsequently selected abstracts were reviewed, and finally full-text articles of the remaining references were read by 1 reviewer (AWV). A random sample of 200 titles (9% of the titles identified by literature search) was also reviewed by a second reviewer (MK). Because of the similar selection of titles, further extraction was done by a single reviewer, but in case of uncertainties, these were discussed and solved by consensus.

Studies reporting on the metric properties of the instruments assessing pain, physical function, and PtGA in hand OA were included. The metric properties of the studied instruments were described according to 4 items: reliability, sensitivity to change, feasibility, and validity. Inclusion criteria differed per item:

- Reliability was described based on studies evaluating the reliability of 1 or more instruments performed more than once in the same group of patients, either by the same performer over time or by different performers during 1 study visit. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies were included.
- Sensitivity to change was described based on longitudinal studies evaluating change of pain, physical function, or PtGA in hand OA measured by 1 or more instruments.
- Feasibility was described based on studies evaluating this item of 1 or more instruments.
- Validity was described based on studies comparing different instruments assessing pain, physical function, or PtGA in the same patients. Again, both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies were included.

Studies that fulfilled the requirements for at least 1 of these 4 items were included in our review. To be able to generalize the description of the metric properties of the applied instruments to different populations, evaluation by only 1 study was considered as insufficient evidence to draw conclusions. Therefore, only instruments that were assessed by at least 2 studies were included in the description of metric properties.

Studies reporting on surgical interventions, less than 25 patients having hand OA, or on diseases other than hand OA were excluded, as well as animal studies, reviews, abstracts, letters to the editor, and studies in languages other than English. Because of the published systematic literature review on outcome measures in trapeziometacarpal OA by Marks, *et al*[22], studies reporting only on trapeziometacarpal OA were also excluded.

*Data extraction*. A self-made standardized form was used to extract information on the following data: (1) study population (population size, setting, age, sex), (2) instruments and assessed domains, (3) study design and followup duration, (4) results concerning measures of reliability [intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC), κ value, percentage of agreement, smallest detectable difference (SDD)], sensitivity to change (percentage of change, amount of change, standardized response mean), feasibility (time needed to perform outcome measure), and validity (correlation, association, and measures of agreement between different instruments assessing the same domain). From 6 random studies, data were also extracted by MK, resulting in similar extracted data. All extracted results were discussed by both reviewers to avoid missing information.

*Statistical analyses*. Because of the heterogeneity of the studies with respect to the evaluated instruments, it was not possible to perform a metaanalysis. Therefore, we performed a descriptive review.

## RESULTS

*Literature flow*. In total, 4351 titles were identified and 2244 unique references were left for screening after removing duplicate references (Figure 1). During the screening, 2008 references could be removed based on title. After reviewing 236 abstracts and 92 full-text articles, 66 studies satisfied the inclusion criteria (Table 1[13,18,19,23–33,34–44,45–55,56–66,67-77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85].

*Clinical outcome measures*. The instruments used for the assessment of the OMERACT core domains pain, physical function, and PtGA in the 66 identified studies are specified in Table 2[13,14,15,16,17,18,86–96,97,98,99,100,101,102]. Different instruments were applied, consisting of 12 questionnaires, 1 interview, and a number of rating scales [visual analog scale (VAS), numeric rating scale (NRS), or Likert]. Further, 9 different performance- or assessor-based measures were applied for the assessment of physical function; pain was

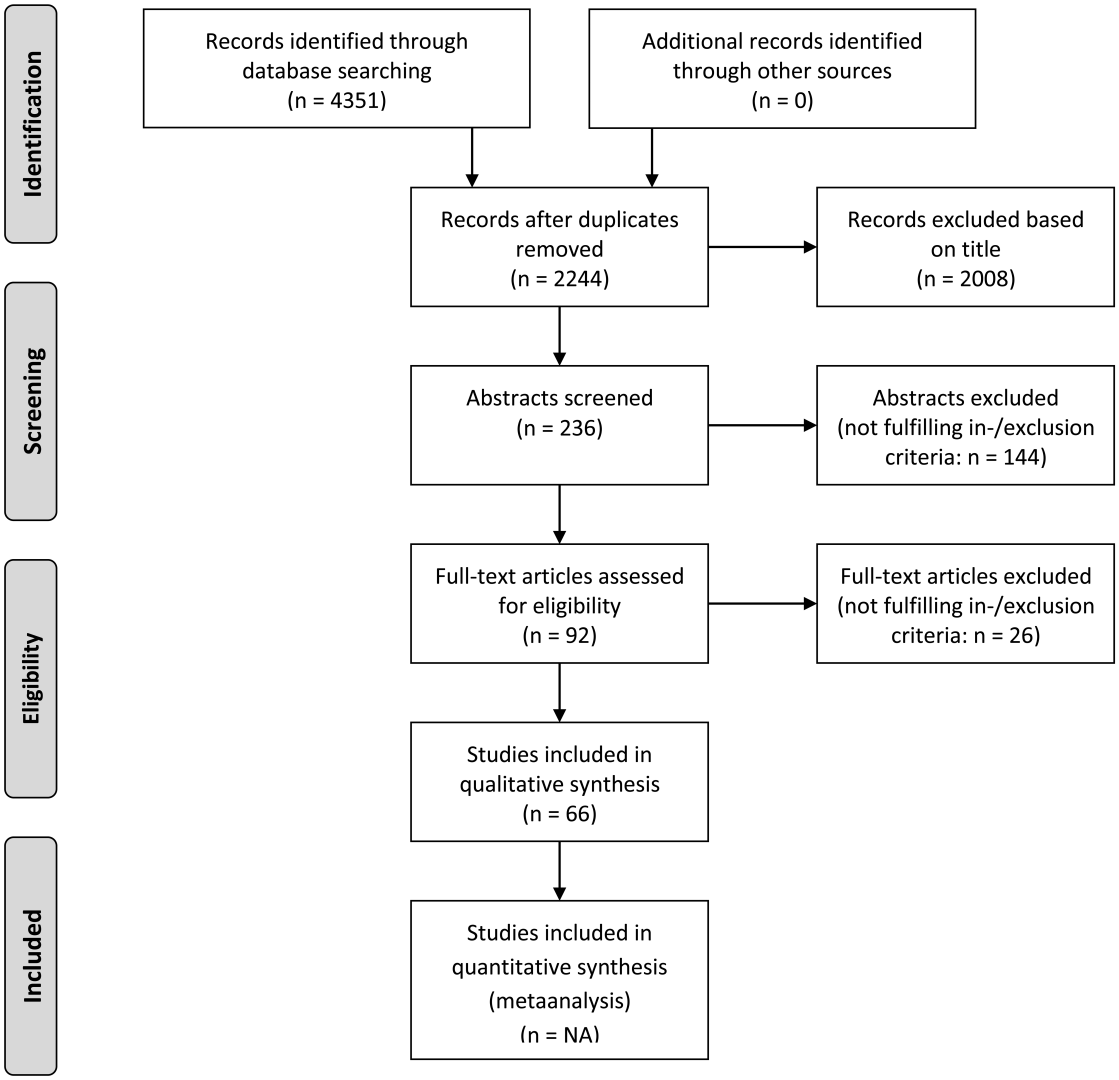


*Figure 1*. Overview of literature research. NA: not applicable.

assessed by palpation, using the number of painful or tender joints, the Doyle index, or the Ritchie articular index.

The AUSCAN was most frequently applied (n = 34), followed by the VAS pain (n = 30), VAS global (n = 16), FIHOA (n = 17), and HAQ (n = 12). The AIMS-2 was applied in 5 studies, the Cochin scale and Score for Assessment and Quantification of Chronic Rheumatoid Affections of the Hands (SACRAH) in 4 studies, the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) in 3 studies, and the Arthritis Self Efficacy Scale (ASES) in 2 studies. The Measure of Activity Performance (MAP-hand), MHQ, Older Americans' Resources and Services Multidimensional Functional Assessment Questionnaire, Patient-Rated Wrist/Hand Evaluation (PRWHE), and Revel functional index were all used in only 1 study each.

Of the performance- or assessor-based measures, grip strength was applied most frequently (n = 35), followed by pain or tenderness on palpation (n = 21). Other applied performance- or assessor-based measures were pinch strength (n = 17), the grip ability test (GAT; n = 4), Moberg Pick-Up Test (MPUT; n = 3), AHFT (n = 2), evaluation of dexterity (n = 3), button test (n = 1), Hand Mobility in Scleroderma Test (HAMIS; n = 1), Hand Functional Index (HFI; n = 1), and Jebsen-Taylor Hand Function Test (JTHFT; n = 1).

*Study characteristics*. The characteristics of the 66 included studies are described in Table 1. The source populations were predominantly secondary care (n = 41), in addition to primary care (n = 6), population-based (n = 6), and familial OA studies (n = 5). All studies included more women than men, and the mean age was > 50 years in almost all studies. Different study designs were included: 26 observational studies, 35 randomized controlled trials (RCT), and 4 intervention studies.

Of the included studies, 25 studies were primarily aimed

at the evaluation of metric properties of 1 or more instruments measuring pain, physical function, or PtGA[13,18,19,23–33,34–44]. The remaining studies applied these instruments to evaluate the effect of a treatment or intervention (n = 37)[45–55,56–66,67–77,78,79,80,81], or to evaluate disease course over time (n = 4)[82,83,84,85].

*Metric properties of clinical outcome measures (discrimination: reliability)*. Only 11 studies provided data on measures of reliability, including 7 instruments[13,19,25,27,30,34,35,36,37,43,44]. The FIHOA and AUSCAN were most frequently evaluated (Table 3). The AHFT and GAT were evaluated in only 1 study each[18,35]. The reported measures of reliability of instruments that were assessed in at least 2 studies are listed in Table 3.

In general, all evaluated instruments showed good measures of reliability. Three studies evaluated 2 questionnaires for the assessment of physical function, enabling direct comparison of these measures[34,37]. Haugen, *et al* reported excellent reliability for both the AUSCAN function subscale and FIHOA[30]. Moe, *et al* reported the same, in addition to comparable SDD for both questionnaires[34]. Poole, *et al* evaluated the FIHOA, in addition to the Cochin scale, reporting the highest ICC for the Cochin scale[37].

Performance- or assessor-based measures were assessed less frequently, but showed good measures of reliability.

Only 2 instruments (AUSCAN and FIHOA) were extensively tested, showing excellent measures of reliability for both questionnaires. Other instruments, while showing good measures of reliability, had only been tested in 1 or 2 studies. Therefore, only tentative conclusions can be drawn for these instruments.

*Discrimination: Sensitivity to change*. Of the 45 studies assessing change over time in pain, physical function, or PtGA[25,26,29,36,42,45,47–57,58–68,69–79,80,81,82,83,84,85], 7 studies did not demonstrate any significant change (1 observational study, 6 RCT)[62,69,75,78,79,80,81]. Six studies observed only a statistically significant change in pain or PtGA (1 observational study, 5 RCT)[29,50,54,60,61,77], and 5 studies only observed the change in physical function (all RCT)[45,47,59,65,76].

The studies that detected change in at least 1 instrument assessing the corresponding domain are summarized in Table 4. The results of these studies regarding measured change over time are described in the Supplementary Table (available from the authors on request).

Pain was most frequently assessed using the VAS or NRS, detecting change in 88% of these studies. Other applied instruments were the AUSCAN pain scale and pain/tenderness assessed on palpation, detecting change in 77% and 92% of the studies, respectively (Table 4)[29,36,48,49,52,54,56,61,72,73,74,83,84]. The ASES pain scale was applied in only 1 study and therefore not included in the table[50].

Physical function was most frequently assessed by measured grip strength, detecting change in 75% of these studies. Other commonly applied instruments were the AUSCAN function scale (82% detecting change), FIHOA (67% detecting change), HAQ (50% detecting change), and grip strength (57% detecting change). The Cochin scale and VAS or NRS were less frequently used (Table 4). The AIMS-2[67], COPM[59], dexterity[68], GAT[50], and MPUT[77] were all assessed in only 1 study each.

PtGA was assessed using the VAS global, detecting change in 60% of these studies. The 40% that did not detect change over time did measure change in the AUSCAN function, COPM, or number of tender joints. A few studies assessed change in PtGA using the AUSCAN total (Table 4).

The VAS pain was by far the most frequently applied instrument for the assessment of change over time of pain in hand OA, followed by the AUSCAN pain subscale and pain on palpation. For the assessment of change of physical function, the AUSCAN function subscale, FIHOA, and grip strength assessment were commonly used. Change in PtGA was most frequently evaluated using the VAS global. The majority of studies that reported change in pain, physical function, or PtGA detected this change by all applied instruments assessing the corresponding domain, suggesting good sensitivity to change for all evaluated instruments.

*Feasibility*. The number of items of the different applied instruments is described in Table 2. Although most of these instruments are available in the public domain, payment is required for the use of the AUSCAN.

Only 4 of the included studies reported data on the time needed to apply the used instruments[13,19,37,39]. Two studies reported the completion time of a questionnaire: for completion of the modified SACRAH, a median of 95 s was measured (range 80–175 s)[39], and for completion of the FIHOA, a mean of 165 s (SD 119 s, range 50–600) was measured in patients with painful OA whereas inactive OA patients needed on average 136 s (SD 97 s, range 20–240)[13]. The other 2 studies reported the time required to administer 1 or 2 assessor- or performance-based measures: for the Doyle index, a mean time of 5.1 min (range 2.4–7.8) was reported[19], and the AHFT and HAMIS were reported to require 20–25 min and 5 min, respectively[37].

Questionnaires took less time than assessor- or performance-based measures. The completion time of both assessed questionnaires was short, so both the FIHOA and the modified SACRAH were highly feasible.

*Validity*. Eighteen studies correlated different instruments (mostly questionnaires), providing information on construct validity. The reported correlations between instruments assessing either pain or physical function, or PtGA are presented in Table 5. Most of the studies (n = 16) reported cross-sectional correlations, whereas correlations or associations between assessed change over time were reported in only 3 studies[23,28,46].

The AUSCAN, grip strength, and FIHOA scores were most frequently compared with other outcome measures

*Table 1*. Overview of included studies (n = 66).

| Studies | Source Population, **No. Patients (% Women)**, Mean Age, Yrs | Definitions of Hand OA | Study Designs | Applied Instruments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allen, *et al*[23] | GOGO study (familial OA), **531 (80)**, 68 | Bony enlargement, KL ≥ 2 in ≥ 1 DIP | Observational, mean FU 4 yrs | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Allen, *et al*[24] | GOGO study, **878 (80)**, 69 | Bony enlargement, KL ≥ 2 in ≥ 1 DIP | Observational, cross-sectional | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- Self-reported pain, 0–3<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Altman, *et al*[45] | Secondary care, **385 (77)**, 64 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control)*, duration 8 weeks | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- VAS pain, global |
| Backman and Mackie[18] | Secondary care, **26 (88)**, 67 | OA ≥ 2 joints, rheumatologist confirmed | Observational, test-retest after 2 weeks | - OMFAQ<br>- AHFT |
| Barthel, *et al*[46] | Secondary care, **783 (80)**, 64 | ACR criteria, KL ≥ 1, symptoms ≥ 1 yr | RCT (intervention > control), duration 8 weeks | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- VAS pain, global |
| Bellamy, *et al*[25] | Study 1: secondary care, **50 (80)**, 60. Study 2: secondary care, **44 (86)**, 60 | ACR criteria | Study 1: Observational, test-retest after 1 week. Study 2: Intervention, duration 6 weeks | Study 1 and 2:<br>- AUSCAN (Likert, VAS)<br>- FIHOA (original, Likert, VAS)<br>Study 1 only:<br>- HAQ, HAQ pain scale<br>- Global pain/function, 0–4<br>- Modified Doyle Index<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Bijsterbosch, *et al*[19] | GARP study (familial polyarticular OA), **260 (84)**, 65 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- Doyle index |
| Bijsterbosch, *et al*[82] | GARP study, **289 (83)**, 60 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 6 yrs | - AUSCAN (Likert) |
| Botha-Scheepers, *et al*[83] | GARP study, **289 (83)**, 60 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 2 yrs | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- Pain intensity score (pain on pressure, 0-60) |
| Brosseau, *et al*[47] | Secondary care, **88 (78)**, 65 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA | RCT (intervention = control)# duration 6 weeks | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Dilek, *et al*[48] | Secondary care, **56 (89)**, 59 | ACR criteria, bilateral | RCT (intervention > control), duration 3 weeks | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- FIHOA<br>- VAS pain rest/during ADL<br>- Grip/pinch strength<br>- No. painful/tender joints |
| Dreiser, *et al*[49] | Secondary care, **60 (85)**, 59 | Radiographic OA | RCT (intervention > control), duration 2 weeks | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain<br>- Pain movement/pressure, 1–5 |
| Dreiser, *et al*[13] | Secondary care, **200 (84)**, 66 | Radiographic OA | Observational, cross-sectional | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain |
| Dreiser, *et al*[26] | Not specified, **261 (92)**, 61 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA ≥ 2 joints bilateral, symptoms | RCT (effect not specified), duration 6 mos | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip strength |
| Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | Primary care, **55 (60)**, 67 | Hand problems (symptoms, nodes) | Observational, test-retest after 1 mo | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- Grip/pinch strength, GAT |
| Dziedzic, *et al*[50] | Primary care, **257 (66)**, 66 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control), duration 6 mos | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- ASES pain<br>- Average pain severity, 0–10<br>- Satisfaction hand function, 0–10<br>- Severity functional problem, 0–10<br>- Grip/pinch strength, GAT |
| Fernandes, *et al*[28] | Secondary care, **211 (95)**, 63 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 3 mos | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- ASES pain<br>- COPM<br>- MAP-hand<br>- Modified HAQ<br>- Grip strength, GAT |
| Fioravanti, *et al*[51] | Primary care, **60 (87)**, 71 | ACR criteria, symptomatic | RCT (intervention > control), duration 2 weeks | - FIHOA<br>- HAQ<br>- VAS pain |

*Table 1*. Continued.

| Studies | Source Population, **No. Patients (% Women)**, Mean Age, Yrs | Definitions of Hand OA | Study Designs | Applied Instruments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flynn, *et al*[52] | Secondary care, **26 (88)**, range 52–82 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control), duration 2 mos | - Disease severity, 1–10<br>- Global assessment, 1–6<br>- Grip strength<br>- No. painful/tender joints |
| Gabay, *et al*[53] | Secondary care, **162 (74)**, 63 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA ≥ 2 joints ≥ 2 flares finger OA | RCT (intervention > control), duration 6 mos | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip strength |
| Garfinkel, *et al*[54] | Not specified, **25 (56)**, range 52–79 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control), duration 10 weeks | - Pain rest/activity (not specified)<br>- Hand function (not specified)<br>- Grip strength<br>- Tenderness |
| Grifka, *et al*[55] | Secondary care, **594 (83)**, 62 | ACR criteria, symptomatic ≥ 3 mos | RCT (intervention > control), duration 4 weeks | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- HAQ<br>- VAS pain, global<br>- Grip strength |
| Haugen, *et al*[29] | Secondary care, **83 (93)**, 60 | ACR criteria, KL ≥ 2, ≥ 1 swollen/tender joint, VAS pain ≥ 30 | RCT (intervention > control), duration 42 days | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- VAS pain, global<br>- No. tender joints |
| Haugen, *et al*[30] | Secondary care (Oslo hand OA cohort), **209 (91)**, 62 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 7 yrs | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- AIMS-2<br>- FIHOA |
| Haugen, *et al*[84] | Oslo hand OA cohort, **209 (91)**, 62 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 7 yrs | - AUSCAN<br>- Grip strength<br>- No. tender joints |
| Hirsch, *et al*[31] | Women's Health and Aging Study, **919 (100)**, age ≥ 65 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - Pain/tenderness (no./intensity, 0–3)<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Horvath, *et al*[56] | Secondary care, **63 (81)**, 63 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA, pain ≥ 3 mos | RCT (intervention > control), duration 3 weeks | - HAQ<br>- VAS pain (rest/exertion), global<br>- Grip/pinch strength<br>- No. tender joints |
| Kanat, *et al*[57] | Not specified, **50 (100)**, 63 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control), duration 10 days | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- Cochin scale<br>- Pain rest/motion, 0–10<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Keen, *et al*[58] | Secondary care, **36 (86)**, 58 | ACR criteria or radiographic OA | Intervention, FU 4 weeks (after injection) | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- VAS pain (most painful/all), global |
| Kjeken, *et al*[59] | Secondary care, **70 (97)**, 61 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 3 mos | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- COPM, 0–10<br>- Modified HAQ<br>- VAS pain, global |
| Kovacs, *et al*[60] | Secondary care, **45 (93)**, 59 | ACR criteria, KL ≥ 2 in ≥ 2 joints, VAS pain ≥ 30 | RCT (intervention > control), duration 3 weeks | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- HAQ<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip strength |
| Kvien, *et al*[61] | Secondary care, **83 (93)**, 60 | ACR criteria, KL ≥ 2, ≥ 1 swollen/tender joint, VAS pain ≥ 30 | RCT (intervention > control), duration 42 days | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- VAS pain, global<br>- No. tender joints |
| Kwok, *et al*[62] | Secondary care, **195 (87)**, 59 | Diagnosed by rheumatologist | Observational, FU 3 mos | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- AIMS-2<br>- Dexterity<br>- Grip strength |
| MacIntyre and Wessel[32] | Community-dwelling, **99 (80)**, 67 | ACR criteria (dominant hand) | Observational, cross-sectional | |
| MacIntyre, *et al*[33] | Community-dwelling, **104 (81)**, 68 | ACR criteria (dominant hand) | Observational, cross-sectional | - PRWHE<br>- Dexterity<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Marshall, *et al*[85] | Primary care, **1076 (60)**, 65 | Hand symptoms | Observational, FU 3 yrs | - AUSCAN (Likert) |

*Table 1*. Continued.

| Studies | Source Population, **No. Patients (% Women)**, Mean Age, Yrs | Definitions of Hand OA | Study Designs | Applied Instruments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moe, *et al*[34] | Secondary care (Oslo hand OA cohort), **128 (91)**, 69 | ACR criteria | Observational, test-retest after 1 week | - AIMS-2<br>- AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- FIHOA<br>- HAQ<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip strength<br>- MPUT |
| Moratz, *et al*[63] | Population/secondary care, **77 (73)**, 69 | Not specified | Intervention, duration 12 weeks | - Disability, 0–3<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Myers, *et al*[35] | Primary care, **55 (60)**, 66 | Hand pain/problems | Observational, test-retest after 1 mo | - Interview on hand problems<br>- Pain, 0–10<br>- Grip/pinch strength, GAT<br>- Pain/tenderness palpation |
| Myrer, *et al*[64] | Volunteers, **35 (77)**, 64 | ACR criteria, FIHOA > 5 | RCT (intervention > control), duration 4 weeks | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain (rest/movement) |
| Pastinen, *et al*[65] | Secondary care, **29 (79)**, 58 | Clinical/radiographic finger OA | RCT (intervention > control), duration 14 weeks | - VAS pain (during grip/pinch)<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Poiraudeau, *et al*[36] | Secondary care, **89 (91)**, 63 | ACR criteria | Observational, FU 6 mos | - Cochin scale<br>- FIHOA<br>- Revel functional index<br>- Ritchie articular index<br>- VAS pain, handicap |
| Poole, *et al*[37] | Population based (senior centers), **40 (60)**, 63 | Diagnosis of OA (not specified), symptoms | Observational, test-retest 1 week | - Cochin scale<br>- FIHOA<br>- MHQ<br>- AHFT<br>- HFI, HAMIS |
| Reeves and Hassanein[66] | Not specified, **27 (59)**, 64 | Radiographic OA, pain | RCT (intervention > control), FU 6 mos (after injection) | - VAS pain (rest/movement/grip)<br>- Flexion motion |
| Rintelen, *et al*[38] | Secondary care, **71 (91)**, 60 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - Short-form SACRAH<br>- Modified SACRAH |
| Rogers and Wilder[67] | Secondary care, **55 (80)**, 72 | KL ≥ 2 | Intervention, duration 2 yrs | - AIMS-2<br>- Pain, 0–10<br>- Grip strength |
| Rogers and Wilder[68] | Community-based, **46 (87)**, 75 | KL ≥ 2 | RCT (intervention = control), duration 6 weeks | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- Dexterity<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Romero-Cerecero, *et al*[69] | Not specified, **113 (95)**, 62 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA ≥ 2 joints VAS ≥ 40, FIHOA ≥ 5 | RCT (intervention = control), duration 4 weeks | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain |
| Rothacker, *et al*[70] | Not specified, **49 (84)**, 66 | Physician/radiographic confirmed OA, symptoms | RCT (intervention > control), FU 45 min (after cream) | - Pain 0–5 |
| Rothacker, *et al*[71] | Secondary care, **81 (74)**, 61 | Physician confirmed OA, symptoms | RCT (intervention > control), FU 45 min (after cream) | - Pain 0–5 |
| Sautner, *et al*[39] | Secondary care, **60 (73)**, 62 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - SACRAH, modified SACRAH<br>- VAS global |
| Sautner, *et al*[40] | Secondary care, **66 (77)**, 58 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- SACRAH, modified SACRAH<br>- VAS global |
| Saviola, *et al*[72] | Secondary care, **38 (95)**, 61 | Radiographic erosive OA ≥ 2 joints, VAS ≥ 40 | RCT (intervention 1 > intervention 2), duration 2 yrs (intervention 2 only 1 yr) | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain, global<br>- Grip strength<br>- No. tender joints |
| Schnitzer, *et al*[73] | Not specified, **59 (68)**, 68 | Radiographic/ physical OA findings | RCT (intervention > control), duration 9 weeks | - HAQ<br>- VAS pain<br>- Grip strength<br>- Joint tenderness (by dolorimeter) |
| Seiler[74] | Secondary care, **41 (90)**, median 63 | Radiographic OA, ≥ 3 painful/ tender joints, ≥ 1 inflamed Heberden node | RCT (intervention > control), duration 4 weeks | - No. painful joints<br>- Grip strength<br>- Pain index (no./intensity, 0–3) |

*Table 1*. Continued.

| Studies | Source Population, **No. Patients (% Women)**, Mean Age, Yrs | Definitions of Hand OA | Study Designs | Applied Instruments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shin, *et al*[75] | Secondary care, **86 (97)**, 58 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 12 weeks | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- HAQ<br>- VAS global<br>- No. tender joints |
| Stamm, *et al*[41] | Secondary care, **100 (87)**, 61 | Bony swelling ≥ 1 DIP/PIP, pain/bony swelling ≥ 1 CMC1 | Observational, cross-sectional | - AIMS-2<br>- AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- Cochin scale<br>- FIHOA<br>- HAQ<br>- SACRAH, modified SACRAH<br>- Grip strength<br>- JTHFT, MPUT, button test |
| Stamm, *et al*[76] | Secondary care, **40 (88)**, 60 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention > control), duration 3 mos | - HAQ<br>- VAS pain, global<br>- Grip strength |
| Stange-Rezende, *et al*[77] | Secondary care, **45 (93)**, 60 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 3 weeks | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- VAS pain (general/hands), global<br>- Grip strength<br>- MPUT |
| Stukstette, *et al*[78] | Secondary care, **151 (83)**, 59 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 3 mos | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- COPM<br>- Grip/pinch strength |
| Tubach, *et al*[42] | Secondary care, **249 (88)**, 64 | ACR criteria | Intervention, FU 4 weeks | - VAS pain, global, functional disability |
| Verbruggen, *et al*[79] | Secondary care, **60 (85)**, 61 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 1 yr | - AUSCAN (not specified)<br>- Grip strength<br>- No. tender joints |
| Wenham, *et al*[80] | Not specified, **70 (81)**, 61 | ACR criteria | RCT (intervention = control), duration 4 weeks | - AUSCAN (VAS)<br>- VAS pain (average/worst joint), global<br>- No. tender joints |
| Widrig, *et al*[81] | Primary and secondary care, **204 (74)**, 64 | ACR criteria, radiographic OA ≥ 2 joints VAS ≥ 40, FIHOA ≥ 5 | RCT (intervention = control), duration 3 weeks | - FIHOA<br>- VAS pain<br>- No. tender joints |
| Wittoek, *et al*[43] | Secondary care, **72 (89)**, 62 | ACR criteria | Observational, cross-sectional | - AUSCAN (Likert)<br>- FIHOA<br>- VAS pain |
| Ziv, *et al*[44] | Not specified, **32 (100)**, 70 | ACR criteria | Observational, test-retest after 1 week | - Grip/pinch strength |

* Intervention group performed better than control group, according to primary outcome measure. # Intervention group did not perform better than control group, according to primary outcome measure. OA: osteoarthritis; GOGO: Genetics of Generalized OA; KL: Kellgren-Lawrence; DIP: distal interphalangeal joint; FU: followup; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; ACR: American College of Rheumatology; RCT: randomized controlled trial; VAS: visual analog scale; OMFAQ: Older Americans' Resources and Services Multidimensional Functional Assessment Questionnaire; AHFT: Arthritis Hand Function Test; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; GARP: Genetics osteoArthritis and Progression; ADL: activities of daily living; GAT: grip ability test; ASES: Arthritis Self Efficacy Scale; COPM: Canadian Occupational Performance Measure; MAP-hand: Measure of Activity Performance; AIMS-2: Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale-2; PRWHE: Patient-Rated Wrist/Hand Evaluation; MPUT: Moberg Pick-Up Test; MHQ: Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire; HFI: hand functional index; HAMIS: Hand Mobility in Scleroderma Test; SACRAH: Score for Assessment and Quantification of Chronic Rheumatoid Affections of the Hands; PIP: proximal interphalangeal joint; CMC1: first carpometacarpal joint; JTHFT: Jebsen-Taylor Hand Function Test.

(Table 5). Correlations of the ASES pain scale, COPM, and MAP-hand with other clinical outcome measures were evaluated in only 1 study[28], as were the JTHFT[41], Revel functional index[36], PRWHE[33], MHQ, HFI, and HAMIS[37]. These studies were therefore not included in Table 5.

Varying correlation coefficients were reported among the different studies. In general, correlations between different questionnaires were stronger than correlations of performance-based measures with other performance-based measures or with questionnaires. Correlations between different instruments assessing physical function ranged from 0.52–0.89 between questionnaires, from 0.05–0.67 between

*Table 2*. Instruments measuring pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment applied in the included studies.

| Studies | Domains | Specifications | No. Studies Applied |
|---|---|---|---|
| Questionnaires | | | |
| AIMS-2[16] | Physical function | 78 items, rated on 5-point scale. Transformed into 12 scales, score range 0–10 (worst possible). 1 scale for hand/finger function. | 5 |
| ASES[86] | Pain, physical function | 20 items, scored 10 (very uncertain) to 100 (very certain can do). 3 subscales: pain/function /other symptoms, scored by taking mean of subscale items (range 10–100). | 2 |
| AUSCAN[14] | Pain, physical function, global assessment | 15 items, Likert (0 = none to 4 = extreme)/VAS version. Summed into 3 subscales: pain (Likert range 0–20/VAS range 0–100), stiffness (0–4/0–100), function (0–36/0–100). | 34 |
| Cochin scale[87] | Physical function | 18 items, rated on Likert scale (0 = without difficulty to 5 = impossible). Summed to final score, range 0–90. | 4 |
| COPM[88] | Physical function | Interview on most important activities. 5 most important activities scored for performance/satisfaction (1–10). Subscale scores range 0 (not able to do/satisfied) to 10 (extremely able to do/satisfied). | 3 |
| FIHOA[13] | Physical function | 10 items, range 0 (no difficulty) to 3 (impossible). Total score range 0–30. Original, VAS, Likert version. | 15 |
| HAQ[17] | Physical function | 20 items. Total score range 0 to 3 (higher score indicates poorer functioning). | 12 |
| MAP-hand[89] | Physical function | 18 items, range 0 (no difficulty) to 4 (not able to do). Total mean score calculated. | 1 |
| MHQ[15] | Pain, physical function | 37 items, rated on 5-point Likert (1 = very good to 5 = very poor). Scores normalized to 0–100 scale. | 1 |
| OMFAQ[90] | Physical function | 5 domains of functioning, scored 1 (excellent) to 6 (total impaired). Total score range 5–30. Physical/instrumental ADL scale. | 1 |
| PRWHE[91] | Physical function | 15 item scale, rated on 0–10 NRS. Summed to subscales: pain (0–50), disability (0–60). | 1 |
| Revel functional index[92] | Physical function | 10 questions, rated 0 (without difficulty) to 2 (impossible). Total score range 0–20. | 1 |
| SACRAH[93] | Pain, physical function | 23 questions, rated on VAS scale. 3 domains: functional status, stiffness, pain. Original, short-form, modified version. | 4 |
| VAS[94]/NRS/Likert | Pain, physical function, global assessment | Used for assessment of pain, patient's global assessment, functioning, perceived strength, etc. | 43 |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | | |
| AHFT[18] | Physical function | 11-item test, 4 subscales: grip/pinch strength, dexterity, applied dexterity, applied strength. Score per subscale. | 2 |
| Button Test[95] | Physical function | Unbutton and button 5 buttons using a standard board. Score recorded in seconds. | 1 |
| Dexterity | Physical function | Assessed using dexterity/Purdue Pegboard. | 2 |
| GAT[96] | Physical function | Modification of Grip Function Test. 3 items, timed (sec) and summed to total GAT score. GAT score < 20 s = normal. | 4 |
| Grip strength | Physical function | Measured in mmHg or in kg. | 35 |
| HAMIS[97] | Physical function | 9 items rated 0 (no problems performing the motion) to 3 (unable). Total score range 0–27. | 1 |
| HFI[98] | Physical function | 9 wrist/hand items from Keitel Function Test, measuring motion patterns. Items ranged 0 (no difficulties) to 3 (much difficulty). Total score 0–52 (0–26 for each upper extremity). | 1 |
| JTHFT[99] | Physical function | 7 items, timed in seconds. Summed to total score. | 1 |
| MPUT[100] | Physical function | Picking up 10 items and placing in container, timed in seconds. | 3 |
| Pinch strength | Physical function | Measured in mmHg or in kg. | 17 |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation, Doyle[101]/ Ritchie articular index[102] | Pain | Tenderness on palpation. Score range Doyle total 0–144, Doyle hand 0–72. Score range Ritchie articular index 0–60. | 21 |

AIMS-2: Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale-2; ASES: Arthritis Self Efficacy Scale; OA: osteoarthritis; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; COPM: Canadian Occupational Performance Measure; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; MAP-hand: Measure of Activity Performance; MHQ: Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire; OMFAQ: Older Americans' Resources and Services Multidimensional Functional Assessment Questionnaire; PRWHE: Patient-Rated Wrist/Hand Evaluation; SACRAH: Score for Assessment and Quantification of Chronic Rheumatoid Affections of the Hands; VAS: visual analog scale; NRS: numeric rating scale; AHFT: Arthritis Hand Function Test; GAT: grip ability test; HAMIS: Hand Mobility in Scleroderma Test; HFI: hand functional index; JTHFT: Jebsen-Taylor Hand Function Test; MPUT: Moberg Pick-Up Test.

questionnaires and performance-based measures, and from 0.25–0.96 between performance-based measures. For the assessment of pain, correlations between 0.55–0.81 were observed between questionnaires, and correlations between 0.47–0.65 between questionnaires and pain on palpation. However, only a few correlation coefficients above 0.90 were observed, suggesting that different instruments detect different aspects of the assessed domain.

Two of the 3 studies associating change over time by different instruments presented correlation coefficients,

*Table 3*. Metric properties of instruments measuring pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment — reliability*.

| Variables | Studies | Relevant Results |
|---|---|---|
| Questionnaires | | |
| AUSCAN | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | ICC (Likert/VAS):<br>- Pain: 0.70/0.84<br>- Function: 0.86/0.90 |
| | Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | ICC:<br>- Pain: 0.88<br>- Function: 0.87 |
| | Haugen, *et al*[30] | ICC:<br>- Pain: 0.93<br>- Function: 0.94<br>- Total: 0.96 |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | ICC, SDD:<br>- Pain: 0.80, 1.06<br>- Function: 0.92, 0.80<br>- Total: 0.87, 0.76 |
| Cochin scale | Poiraudeau, *et al*[36] | Interrater ICC: 0.96 |
| | Poole, *et al*[37] | ICC: 0.94 |
| FIHOA | Dreiser, *et al*[13] | ICC: 0.95, mean difference 0.17 ± 1.64 |
| | Haugen, *et al*[30] | ICC: 0.88 |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | ICC: 0.94, SDD 5.55 |
| | Poole, *et al*[37] | ICC: 0.74 |
| | Wittoek, *et al*[43] | ICC: 0.96 |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | |
| Grip strength | Myers, *et al*[35] | Inter-/intraobserver ICC: range per hand 0.91–0.94/0.90–0.92 |
| | Ziv, *et al*[44] | SDD (right, left): 2.48, 1.94 |
| Pinch strength | Myers, *et al*[35] | Inter-/intraobserver ICC: range per test/hand 0.87–0.94/0.89–0.96 |
| | Ziv, *et al*[44] | SDD (right, left): range per test 0.40–0.54, 0.42–0.63 |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation | Bijsterbosch, *et al*[19] | Inter-/intrarater ICC of Doyle index: 0.88/range per rater 0.94–0.97 |
| | Myers, *et al*[35] | Inter-/intraobserver ϰ (% agreement): 0.64/0.69 (95/96) |

* Only instruments assessed in ≥ 2 studies were included in this table. OA: osteoarthritis; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient; VAS: visual analog scale; SDD: smallest detectable difference.

which were in line with the results described above[28,46]. The third study calculated β coefficients for the association of change of the AUSCAN and grip and pinch strength with global assessment of change, adjusted for age, sex, number of osteoarthritic hand joints, and time between assessments. The strongest association with global assessment of change was observed for the AUSCAN[23].

Construct validity of various instruments measuring pain, physical function, or PtGA has been assessed in multiple cross-sectional studies, but only few longitudinal data are available. Moderate to good correlations were observed, especially between questionnaires, suggesting good construct validity.

Table 6 summarizes the available information of metric properties per domain for the 6 most frequently applied instruments for the assessment of pain, physical function, and PtGA. Information of metric properties was considered established when supporting results were observed in at least 3 studies. The unavailability of the AUSCAN in the public domain was included as negative evidence regarding its feasibility.

## DISCUSSION

The most frequently applied and evaluated instruments for the assessment of pain were the AUSCAN pain subscale, VAS pain, and pain on palpation. The AUSCAN function subscale, FIHOA, and grip and pinch strength were most frequently applied and evaluated for the assessment of physical function. PtGA was most frequently evaluated using the VAS global.

In the description of discrimination, the reliability of the AUSCAN and FIHOA were found to be extensively tested and shown to be excellent. The reliability of other instruments was suggested to be good, but only scarce evidence was available.

The VAS pain was by far the most commonly used instrument for the assessment of the change of pain, followed by the AUSCAN pain subscale and pain on palpation. The AUSCAN function subscale, FIHOA, and assessment of grip and pinch strength were regularly applied for the assessment of the change of physical function. The change of PtGA was

*Table 4*. Metric properties of instruments measuring pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment — sensitivity to change.* Only studies demonstrating significant change in pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment by at least 1 of the applied instruments are shown.

| Variable | No. Studies Reporting Change in Corresponding Instrument | No. Studies Not Reporting Change, Discordant with Other Instruments Assessing Corresponding Domain | Percentage of Studies that Detected Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| RCT/intervention studies | | | |
| Questionnaires | | | |
| AUSCAN function | 5[25,45,48,55,58] | 2[47,59] | 71 |
| AUSCAN pain | 6[25,29,55,58,61,77] | 2[48,60] | 75 |
| AUSCAN total | 2[55,57] | 0 | 100 |
| Cochin scale | 1[57] | 0 | 100 |
| FIHOA | 6[26,49,51,53,64,72] | 3[25,36,48] | 67 |
| HAQ | 3[51,56,73] | 3[55,59,76] | 50 |
| VAS/NRS pain | 20[26,29,42,48,49,51,53,54,55,56,57,58,60,61,64,66,67,70,71,72] | 3[36,73,77] | 88 |
| VAS global | 6[29,42,55,61,72,76] | 4[45,52,56,59] | 60 |
| VAS/NRS function | 2[42,63] | 0 | 100 |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | | |
| Grip strength | 11[26,47,56,63,65,67,68,72,73,74,76] | 4[48,53,55,57] | 73 |
| Pinch strength | 4[56,63,65,68] | 3[47,48,57] | 57 |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation | 9[48,49,52,54,56,61,72,73,74] | 1[29] | 90 |
| Observational studies | | | |
| Patient-reported instruments | | | |
| AUSCAN function | 4[82,83,84,85] | 0 | 100 |
| AUSCAN pain | 4[82,83,84,85] | 1[50] | 80 |
| Cochin scale | 1[36] | 0 | 100 |
| VAS pain | 1[50] | 0 | 100 |
| Performance- or assessor-based measures | | | |
| Grip strength | 1[84] | 0 | 100 |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation | 3[36,83,84] | 0 | 100 |

* Only instruments that detected change in ≥ 1 instrument assessing the corresponding domain were included in this table. RCT: randomized controlled trial; OA: osteoarthritis; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; VAS: visual analog scale; NRS: numeric rating scale.

most often evaluated by the VAS global. The majority of studies detected change by all used instruments, suggesting good sensitivity to change for the evaluated instruments. The change in pain was detected most frequently by the VAS pain or pain on palpation, whereas the change in physical function was detected most frequently by the AUSCAN function subscale or measured grip strength.

In the description of feasibility, only a few of the studies reported on the time needed to perform the instruments. Questionnaires took less time than performance-based measures. Of the frequently applied instruments, only the FIHOA was evaluated and seemed feasible. This is supported by the availability of this questionnaire in the public domain, in contrast with the AUSCAN.

For the description of validity, numerous cross-sectional studies assessed correlations between various instruments, but few longitudinal data were available. The strongest correlations were reported between different questionnaires assessing pain or physical function. Remarkably, the VAS pain, as 1 of the most frequently applied instruments, was evaluated in only a limited number of studies.

For further evaluation of validity, comparison with an external standard should be performed. However, no external standards for the evaluation of pain, physical function, and PtGA have been agreed upon, perhaps because of the varying definitions and measurement of these concepts. For the assessment of physical function, observation of the performance of tasks as described by specific instruments assessing physical function may be useful in the evaluation of validity of these instruments[103].

Based on our review, it is not possible to decide on 1 instrument that should be recommended for the measurement of pain, physical function, or PtGA in hand OA research. Although no major differences regarding metric properties of the evaluated instruments were observed, the amount of supporting evidence varied extensively between the instruments.

Before consensus can be reached on which instruments should be applied, some aspects need further investigation. The reliability of the VAS pain, grip and pinch strength, and pain on palpation needs to be further established in a variety of populations. Regarding the sensitivity to change, the minimal clinical important difference of instruments needs to be determined. Only for the AUSCAN has a minimal clini-

*Table 5*. Metric properties of instruments measuring pain, physical function or patient global assessment – validity.* Correlations between different instruments as observed in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies are shown.

| Instruments | Studies | Correlation with: |
|---|---|---|
| Cross-sectional studies | | |
| Questionnaires | | |
| AIMS-2 | MacIntyre and Wessel[32] | - Dexterity small/large objects: r range per item 0.23–0.40/0.14–0.31[#] |
| | | - Grip strength: r range per item –0.23 to –0.37[#] |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | AIMS-2 physical/arm/hand: |
| | | - AUSCAN function: r 0.83/0.70/0.77[†] |
| | | - FIHOA: r 0.80/0.71/0.69[†] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.67[‡] |
| AUSCAN function | Allen, *et al*[24] | - Grip strength right, left: r –0.42, –0.40[†] |
| | | - Pinch strength right, left: r –0.23, –0.16[†] |
| | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | Likert, VAS: |
| | | - Global function, 0–4: r 0.72, 0.74** |
| | | - FIHOA, original: r 0.78, 0.86** |
| | | - HAQ: r 0.65, 0.68** |
| | | - Grip strength: r –0.39, –0.45** |
| | | - Pinch grip: r –0.31, –0.36** |
| | Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | - GAT: r 0.54** |
| | | - Grip strength: r –0.56** |
| | | - Pinch strength: r –0.60** |
| | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - MAP-hand: r 0.76[#] |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AIMS-2 physical: r 0.83, arm: r 0.70, hand: r 0.77[†] |
| | | - FIHOA: r 0.88[†] |
| | | - HAQ: r 0.80[†] |
| | | - Grip strength: r –0.62[†] |
| | | - MPUT right, left: r 0.58, 0.63[†] |
| | Sautner, *et al*[40] | - VAS global: r 0.55[‡] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.386[‡] |
| | Wittoek, *et al*[43] | - FIHOA: r 0.81[†] |
| AUSCAN pain | Allen, *et al*[24] | - Pain severity right, left: r 0.58, 0.55[†] |
| | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | Likert, VAS: |
| | | - Global pain, 0–4: r 0.57, 0.64** |
| | | - HAQ pain: r 0.57, 0.66** |
| | | - Doyle: r 0.56, 0.47** |
| | Bijsterbosch, *et al*[19] | - Doyle hand, total: r 0.65, 0.61[†] |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | - VAS pain: r 0.77[†] |
| | Wittoek, *et al*[43] | - VAS pain: r 0.79[†] |
| Cochin scale | Poiraudeau, *et al*[36] | - FIHOA: r 0.87[#] |
| | | - Revel functional index: r 0.86 |
| | | - VAS handicap: r 0.67 |
| | Poole, *et al*[37] | - FIHOA: r 0.89** |
| | | - MHQ: r –0.82** |
| | | - AHFT: r range per item –0.64 to 0.57** |
| | | - HFI: r 0.55, HAMIS: r 0.49** |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.369** |
| FIHOA | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | Original/Likert/VAS: |
| | | - AUSCAN function (Likert, VAS): r 0.78, 0.86/0.80, 0.85/0.80, 0.88** |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AIMS-2 physical/arm/hand: r 0.80/0.71/0.69[†] |
| | | - AUSCAN function: r 0.88[†] |
| | | - HAQ: r 0.73[†] |
| | | - Grip strength: r –0.5[†] |
| | | - MPUT right/left: r 0.55/0.59[†] |
| | Poiraudeau, *et al*[36] | - Cochin scale: r 0.87[#] |
| | Poole, *et al*[37] | - Cochin: r 0.89** |
| | | - MHQ: r –0.86** |
| | | - AHFT: r range per item –0.57 to 0.46** |
| | | - HFI: r 0.53, HAMIS: r 0.50** |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.387[‡] |
| | Wittoek, *et al*[43] | - AUSCAN function: r 0.81[†] |

*Table 5*. Continued.

| Instruments | Studies | Correlation with: |
|---|---|---|
| HAQ | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | - AUSCAN function (Likert, VAS): r 0.65, 0.68** |
| | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | Modified HAQ with MAP-hand: r 0.46[#] |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AUSCAN function: r 0.80[†] |
| | | - FIHOA: r 0.73[†] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.424[‡] |
| SACRAH | Rintelen, *et al*[38] | Short-form SACRAH with modified SACRAH: r 0.699[†] |
| | Sautner, *et al*[39] | Modified SACRAH: |
| | | - SACRAH: r 0.978 (range subscales 0.912–0.958)[‡] |
| | | - VAS global: r 0.64[‡] |
| | Sautner, *et al*[40] | Modified SACRAH function/total with VAS global: r 0.55/0.65[‡] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | SACRAH/M-SACRAH: |
| | | - JTHFT: r 0.436 (range per scale 0.371–0.437)/0.388[‡] |
| VAS global | Sautner, *et al*[39] | - Modified SACRAH: r 0.64[‡] |
| | Sautner, *et al*[40] | - Function AUSCAN/modified SACRAH: r 0.55/0.55[‡] |
| | | - Pain AUSCAN/modified SACRAH: r 0.59/0.56[‡] |
| | | - Total modified SACRAH: r 0.65[‡] |
| VAS pain | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AUSCAN pain: r 0.77[†] |
| | Wittoek, *et al*[43] | - AUSCAN pain: r 0.79[†] |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | |
| AHFT | Backman and Mackie[18] | - OMFAQ instrumental ADL scale: range per item r –0.75 to 0.75[†] |
| | | - OMFAQ physical ADL scale: range per item r –0.67 to 0.68[†] |
| | Poole, *et al*[37] | - Cochin scale: r range per item –0.64 to 0.57** |
| | | - FIHOA: r range per item –0.57 to 0.46** |
| | | - MHQ: r range per item –0.48 to 0.65** |
| Dexterity | MacIntyre and Wessel[32] | Large/small objects: |
| | | - AIMS-2: r range per item 0.14–0.31/0.23–0.40[#] |
| | MacIntyre, *et al*[33] | Large/small objects: |
| | | - Grip strength: r –0.32 (range digits –0.25 to –0.30)/ –0.28 (–0.10 to –0.41)[#] |
| | | - Pinch (tripod, narrow, wide key): r –0.37, –0.30, –0.34/–0.34, –0.25, –0.25[#] |
| GAT | Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | - AUSCAN function: r 0.54** |
| | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - MAP-hand: r 0.43[#] |
| Grip strength | Allen, *et al*[24] | - AUSCAN function (right, left): r –0.42, –0.40[†] |
| | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | - AUSCAN function (Likert, VAS): r –0.39, –0.45** |
| | Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | - AUSCAN function: r –0.56** |
| | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - MAP-hand: r –0.32[#] |
| | MacIntyre and Wessel[32] | - AIMS-2: r range per item –0.23 to –0.37[#] |
| | MacIntyre, *et al*[33] | - PRWHE activities: r –0.23[#] |
| | | - Dexterity large: r –0.32, small: –0.28[#] |
| | | - Pinch strength (range per test): r 0.76–0.78[#] |
| | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AUSCAN function: r –0.62[†] |
| | | - FIHOA: r –0.50[†] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r –0.395[‡] |
| MPUT | Moe, *et al*[34] | - AUSCAN function (right, left): r 0.58, 0.63[†] |
| | | - FIHOA (right, left): r 0.55, 0.59[†] |
| | Stamm, *et al*[41] | - JTHFT: r 0.690[‡] |
| Pinch strength | Allen, *et al*[24] | - AUSCAN function (right, left): r –0.23, –0.16[†] |
| | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | - AUSCAN function (Likert, VAS): r –0.31, –0.36** |
| | Dziedzic, *et al*[27] | - AUSCAN function: r –0.60** |
| | MacIntyre, *et al*[33] | - PRWHE activities (range per test): r –0.22 to –0.26[#] |
| | | - Dexterity (range per test) large: r –0.30 to –0.37, small: r –0.25 to –0.34[#] |
| | | - Grip strength (range per test): r 0.75–0.96[#] |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation | Bellamy, *et al*[25] | - Doyle with AUSCAN (Likert, VAS) pain: r 0.56, 0.47** |
| | Bijsterbosch, *et al*[19] | - Doyle hand/total with AUSCAN pain: r 0.65/0.61[†] |
| Longitudinal studies | | |
| Questionnaires | | |
| AUSCAN total | Allen, *et al*[23] | - Association global assessment of change (right, left) with AUSCAN total: β 0.29, 0.27 ($p < 0.001$). Stronger among greater radiographic OA severity. |
| AUSCAN function | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - Change MAP-hand: r 0.52[#] |
| AUSCAN pain | Barthel, *et al*[46] | - Change VAS pain: r 0.81[†] |

*Table 5*. Continued.

| Instruments | Studies | Correlation with: |
|---|---|---|
| VAS global | Barthel, *et al*[46] | - Change AUSCAN function: r 0.71†, pain: r 0.75†<br>- Change VAS pain: r 0.76† |
| VAS pain | Barthel, *et al*[46] | - Change AUSCAN pain: r 0.81† |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | |
| GAT | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - Change MAP-hand: r 0.06# |
| Grip strength | Allen, *et al*[23] | - Global assessment of change (right, left): β –0.16, –0.13 (p 0.003, 0.015). Stronger associations among greater radiographic OA severity. |
| | Fernandes, *et al*[28] | - Change MAP-hand: r –0.05# |
| Pinch strength | Allen, *et al*[23] | - Global assessment of change (right, left): β –0.13, –0.11 (p 0.022, 0.060). Stronger associations among greater radiographic OA severity. |

* Only instruments assessed in ≥ 2 studies were included in this table. # No p values provided. ** p value < 0.05. † p value < 0.001. ‡ p value < 0.0001. AIMS-2: Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale-2; OA: osteoarthritis; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; HAQ: Health Assessment Questionnaire; SACRAH: Score for Assessment and Quantification of Chronic Rheumatoid Affections of the Hands; VAS: visual analog scale; AHFT: Arthritis Hand Function Test; GAT: grip ability test; MPUT: Moberg Pick-Up Test; JTHFT: Jebsen-Taylor Hand Function Test; MAP-hand: Measure of Activity Performance; MHQ: Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire; HFI: hand functional index; OMFAQ: Older Americans' Resources and Services Multidimensional Functional Assessment Questionnaire; PRWHE: Patient-Rated Wrist/Hand Evaluation; HAMIS: Hand Mobility in Scleroderma Test.

*Table 6*. Available information of metric properties from at least 3 studies for the most frequently applied instruments (in at least 15 clinical studies) for evaluation of pain, physical function, or patient's global assessment.

| Variable | Reliability | Sensitivity to Change | Feasibility | Validity |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Questionnaires | | | | |
| AUSCAN | + | + | –# | + |
| FIHOA | + | + | +** | + |
| VAS pain | | + | | + |
| Performance- or assessor-based instruments | | | | |
| Grip strength | +* | + | | + |
| Pinch strength | +* | + | | + |
| Tenderness/pain on palpation | +* | + | | +* |

* Supporting evidence in only 2 studies. ** Supporting evidence in only 1 study. # Not available in public domain. OA: osteoarthritis; AUSCAN: Australian/Canadian Hand OA Index; FIHOA: Functional Index for Hand OA; VAS: visual analog scale; +: established evidence.

cally important improvement been proposed[104]. Validity of instruments assessing physical function should be further investigated by comparing these instruments with an external standard. Further, future research should evaluate instruments within specific subtypes of hand OA.

Our study has some limitations. We intended to include as many available studies as possible that provided information on instruments and their metric properties, and not only studies that actually aimed at evaluating this. Because of the large heterogeneity across studies regarding their purpose (primarily aiming at evaluation instruments or applying instruments for other primary aims) and study design, the methodological quality of the included studies was not assessed. Further, the heterogeneity did not enable the pooling of data into a metaanalysis and addressing the presence of publication bias.

Limitations regarding the literature search are the included databases, restriction to English language, and exclusion of abstracts and unpublished results.

Within all studies assessing the VAS pain or VAS global, different questions were used. The individual questions were observed to be highly variable, especially regarding the type of pain (global pain, overall disease severity, intensity, not specified) and time settings (last 24 h or 48 h, 2 days, 2 weeks, not specified). In future research, this phrasing should be standardized. Further, the VAS pain score has been shown to be influenced by the information on the disease and its consequences that is given to patients when determining the VAS[105], which could not be addressed because of the lack of information on this topic in the included studies. However, future studies evaluating the VAS should take the effect of patient information into account.

Our systematic literature review provides an overview of the instruments that are used for the measurement of pain, physical function, and PtGA in hand OA. Most information on the metric properties of these instruments was available for the questionnaires AUSCAN (assessing pain and function), FIHOA (assessing function), and VAS pain, and

for the performance- or assessor-based instruments grip and pinch strength, and pain on palpation. To enhance comparability across future studies in hand OA, consensus has to be reached on recommended instruments for the measurement of pain, physical function, and PtGA in hand OA. More research has to be performed to compare the different instruments with each other.

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