EXTERNAL VALIDATION OF THE PARK SCORE FOR BOWEL PREPARATION CLEANLINESS DURING CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

M.H. Alageeli\textsuperscript{1}, B. Yan\textsuperscript{10}, S. Zepeda-Gomez\textsuperscript{5}, S. Alshankiti\textsuperscript{3}, L. Stitt\textsuperscript{1}, B.S. Thomas\textsuperscript{9}, Z. Bahreini\textsuperscript{8}, R. Homenauth\textsuperscript{4}, T. Dang\textsuperscript{6}, R. ROFAIEL\textsuperscript{1}, M. Al-Zahrani\textsuperscript{1}, C.M. Townsend\textsuperscript{2}, D. Yoo\textsuperscript{1}, J. Jarosh\textsuperscript{11}, M. Kloc\textsuperscript{11}, A. Smith\textsuperscript{11}, C. Singh\textsuperscript{11}, J. Luhoway\textsuperscript{1}, L. Merotto\textsuperscript{1}, O. Gilani\textsuperscript{1}, J. Friedland\textsuperscript{1}, M. Sey\textsuperscript{7}

1. UWO, London, ON, Canada; 2. Medicine, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada; 3. Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver, BC, Canada; 4. Adult Gastroenterology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 5. Gastroenterology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 6. Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada; 7. Western University, London, ON, Canada; 8. Gastroenterology, Western University, London, ON, Canada; 9. Medicine, Western University, London, ON, Canada; 10. Medicine, Gastroenterology, Western University, London, ON, Canada; 11. LHSC, LONDON, ON, Canada

Background: Capsule endoscopy is the test of choice for small intestinal diseases although it can be limited by poor bowel preparation. The Park score measures small intestinal cleanliness based on the % of mucosa visualized and % of view obstructed and is a promising tool for assessing small bowel preparation although further validation is required before it can be routinely used.

Aims: The objective of this study was to externally validate the Park score among a large number of readers with varying levels of expertise in capsule endoscopy.

Methods: A total of 20 readers consisting of 4 capsule endoscopists, 4 GI fellows, 4 internal medicine residents, 4 medical students, and 4 nurses were invited to participate in the study. All readers completed a web-based Training Module on the Park score followed by an Assessment Module which was repeated 4 weeks later. The Assessment Module consisted of 1,233 images derived from 25 randomly selected capsule videos. Images were selected at 5 minute intervals between the first duodenal and first cecal images of each video and readers rated the % of the mucosa visualized and the % of view obstructed as defined by the Park score. The primary outcome was inter-observer and intra-observer agreement for the total score and secondary outcomes included stratification by subscores and reader group. Agreement was determined based on intraclass correlation coefficients.

Results: The mean inter-observer and intra-observer agreement for the total Park score between all readers was 0.81 (95% CI 0.70-0.87) and 0.92 (0.87-0.94). Stratified by sub-scores, the mean inter and intra-observer agreement for % visualized mucosa was 0.79 (0.67-0.85) and 0.91 (0.86-0.93) and for % of view obstructed was 0.77 (0.64-0.84) and 0.91 (0.87-0.94). The agreement between capsule endoscopists and GI fellows, internal medicine residents, medical students, and nurses were 0.93 (0.88-0.97), 0.90 (0.82-0.95), 0.90 (0.82-0.95), 0.85 (0.74-0.92), respectively.

Conclusions: The Park score is a simple and reliable scoring system to measure small intestinal cleanliness with excellent agreement between a wide range of readers with varying levels of experience with capsule endoscopy.
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