Introduction: The Quality of Life-Alzheimer's Disease (QoL-AD, patient and caregiver questionnaires), was developed for measuring quality of life in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD). Aims. To evaluate the psychometric attributes of the QoL-AD Spanish version (QoL-AD SV) in institutionalized patients with advanced AD.

Methods: 101 patients (88.1% women; mean age, 83.2±6.3) with AD (n=82) and mixed dementia (n=19). The recorded patient-related variables were severity of dementia, cognitive status, perceived general health, quality of life, behavior, apathy, depression, and functional status. QoL-AD acceptability, reliability, and construct validity were analyzed.

Results: The sample Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score was 7.2±6.1 and Global Deterioration Scale was: stage 4, (4%); 5 (21.2%); 6 (34.3%); and 7 (40.4%). Both, QoL-ADpatient (n=40; MMSE=12.0±4.5) and QoL-ADcaregiver (n=101) lack significant floor and ceiling effect and the Cronbach alpha index was 0.90 and 0.86, respectively. The corrected item-total correlation was 0.11-0.68 for QoL-ADcaregiver and 0.28-0.84 for QoL-ADpatient. Stability was satisfactory for QoL-ADpatient (ICC=0.83) and low for QoL-ADcaregiver (ICC=0.51); the standard error of measurement was 2.72 and 4.69. QoL-ADcaregiver construct validity was moderate/high (QUALID=0.43; EQ-5D=0.65), whereas for QoL-ADpatient was poor. No significant correlations were observed between QoL-ADpatient and patient variables or QoL-ADcaregiver. A low to high association (r=0.18-0.55) was obtained between QoL-ADcaregiver and patient-related measures for neuropsychiatric, functioning, and cognitive status.

Conclusions: The QoL-AD SV presented satisfactory acceptability (QoL-ADpatient was completed by only 60% of patients) and internal consistency, but weak stability for the caregiver questionnaire and poor construct validity for QoL-ADpatient. In the tested setting, QoL-AD presents psychometric problems.