

Evaluation of a geriatric assessment tool for multimorbid patients in primary care

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Background

- Increasing number of elderly patients with multimorbidity
- Primary care plays a key role in their management
- In this context, geriatric assessments are of high importance

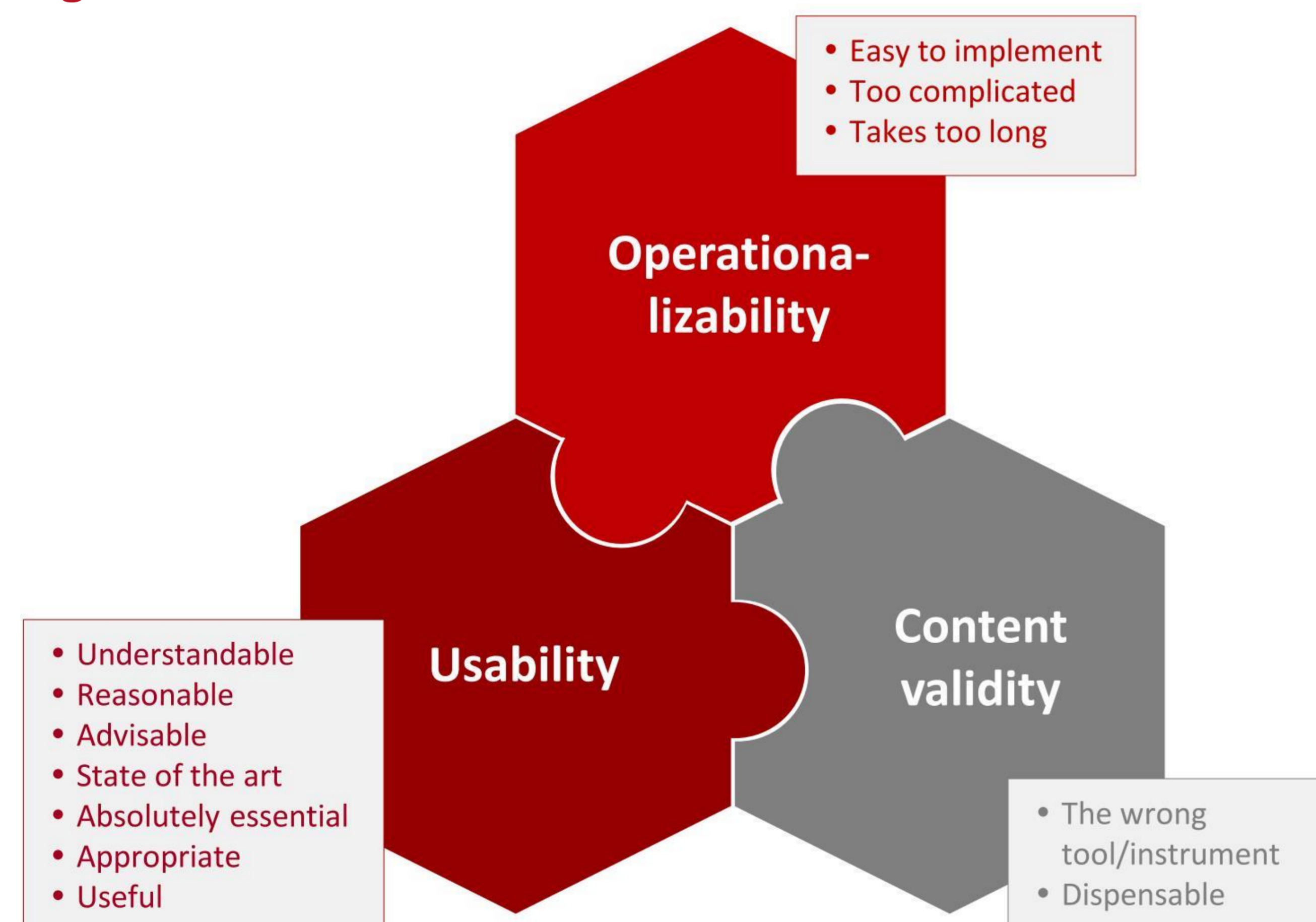
Results

- Response rate 11 %
- 55 respondents (N=62) perceive the CCIV-assessment as **reasonable** and 51 (N=57) as **useful** (see Figure 1)
- Factor analysis (KMO: 0.8 [= adequate]) revealed 3 dimensions behind our criteria (see Figure 2); 3 respective indices (min 0;max 100) were formed: **operationalizability** (72/100), **usability** (84/100), **content validity** (76/100) (see Figure 3)

Table 1: Parts of the CCIV-assessment / included tests

1. Medical data (diagnosis, medication, anamnestic conditions)
2. Physical and mental health
2a Mini Nutritional Assessment Short Form (MNA-SF)
2b Timed Up and Go-Test (TUG)
2c Six-Item Screener (SIS)
2d Geriatric depression scale (GDS-4)
2e Pain Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)
3. ADL-Status (Activities of daily living)
3a Instrumental activities of daily living scale (IADL)
3b Barthel-Index (ADL)
4. Social situation survey according to Nikolaus (Parts 1-3)

Figure 2: Dimensions behind the criteria



Aim of the study

To evaluate the suitability of the composed assessment tool (CCIV-assessment, see Table 1) for primary care.

Methods

A quantitative questionnaire was designed and sent to primary care general practitioners (GP) and nurses together with the CCIV-assessment. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (SAS Enterprise Guide 6.1). The dimensions underlying the evaluated items are based on factor analysis.

Figure 1: Assessment tool rating (tested criteria; means)

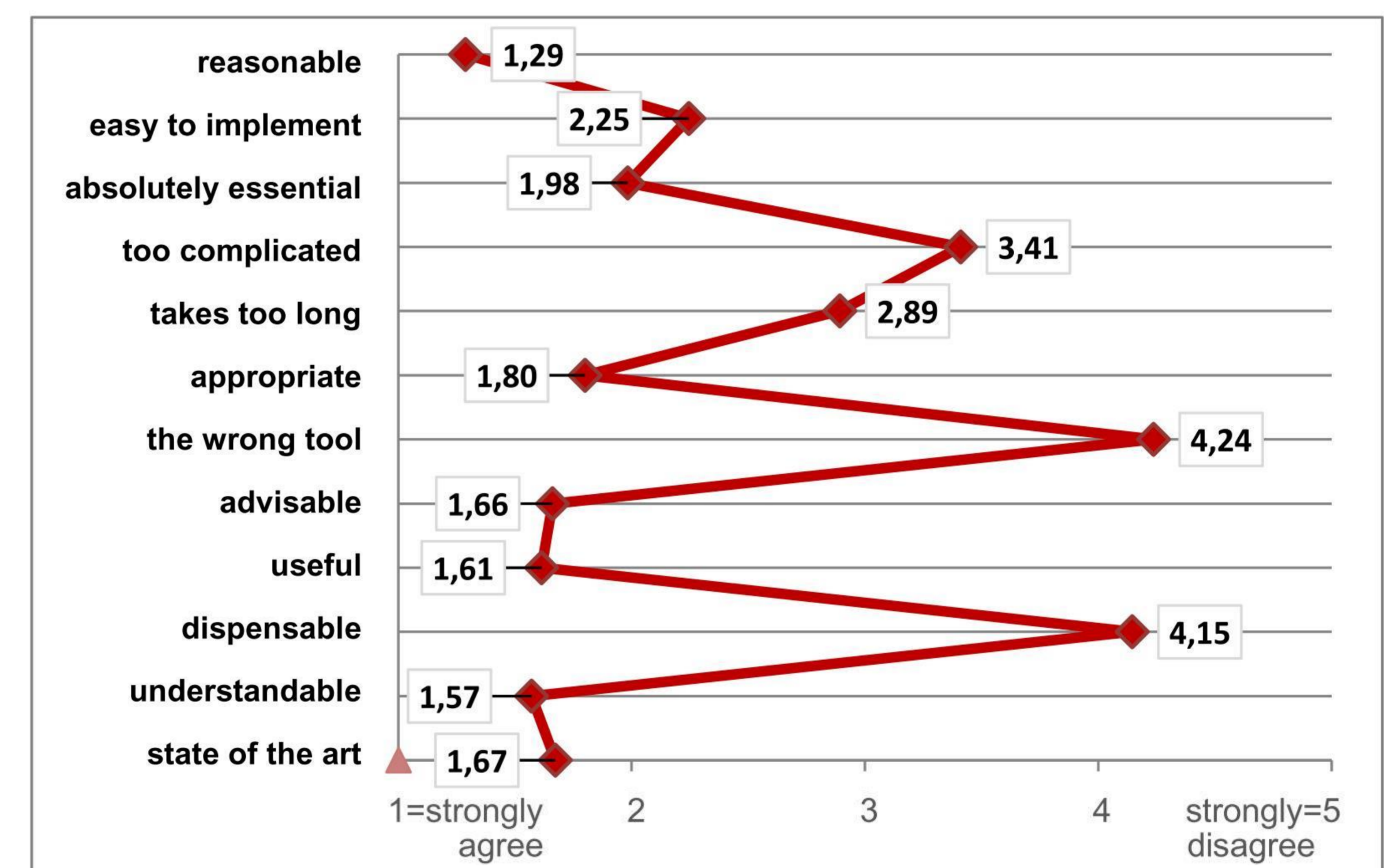
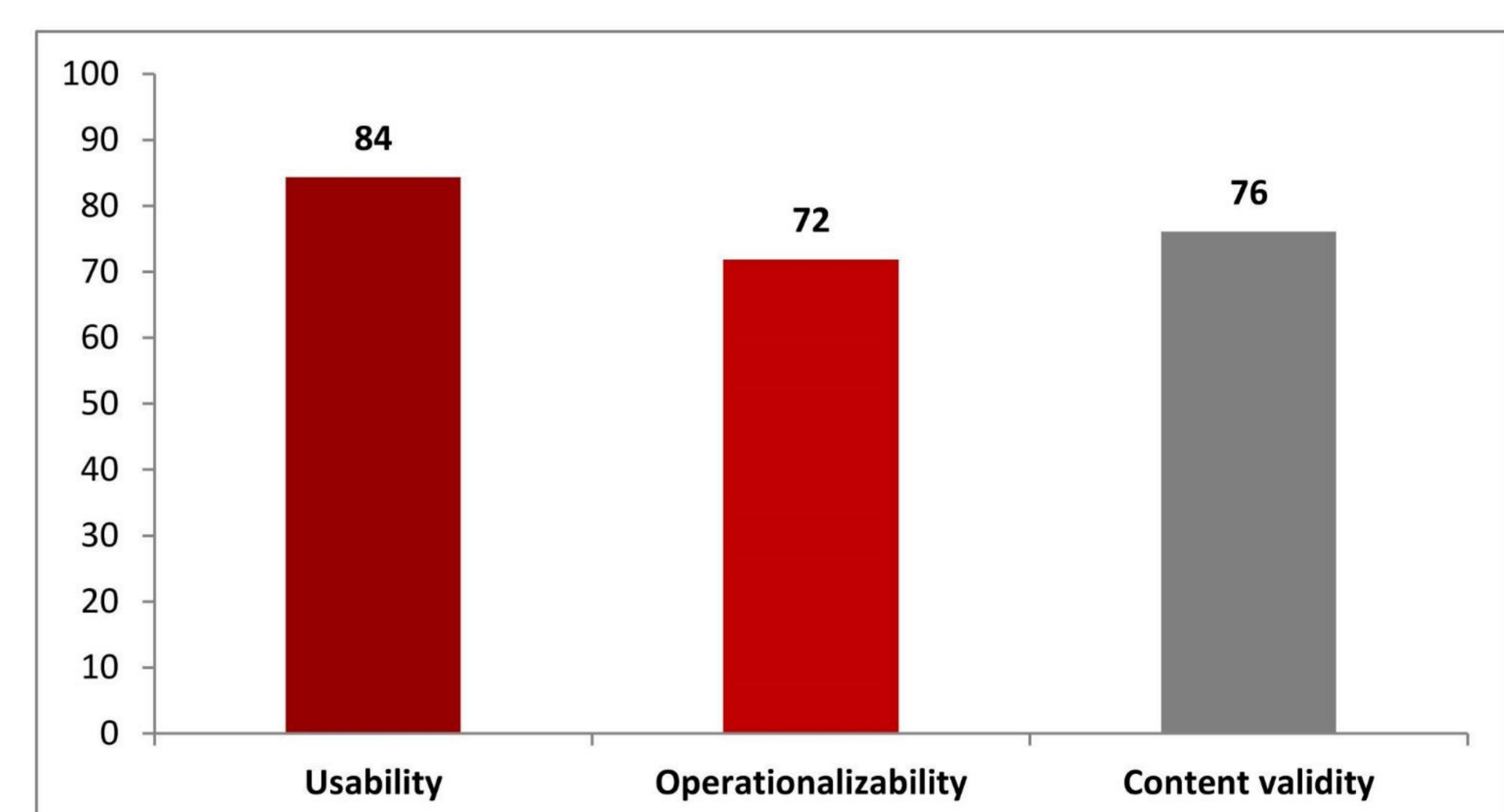


Figure 3: Indices for the 3 dimensions based on factor analysis



Conclusion

We conclude that the CCIV-assessment is perceived as a valuable instrument for primary care.

It is suitable for the implementation in primary care, supports a systematic approach in the assessment of patients' individual needs concerning their physical and psycho-social functioning.

Discussion

- The ÖSG (Austrian Health care Structure Plan) recommends a multidimensional comprehensive geriatric assessment for primary care
- Prerequisites for CCIV-assessment: minimized duration, practicable for different healthcare professionals, without additional devices
- In order to provide continuity of care throughout all health care sections most of the included tests are used in secondary and hospital care
- Response rate of 11 % is comparable to other primary health care surveys in Austria
- Next steps: carry out CCIV-assessment in primary care and inquire the perception of general practitioners with respect to the new tool