Development and Validation of a Rib fracture-specific Quality of Life Instrument (RIB-QUAL): An International Chest Wall Injury Society Study
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Introduction
Quality of life has become a core metric in the evaluation and management of patients with chest wall injuries. Significant variability exists in instruments used to evaluate this outcome in this patient population. None of the quality-of-life metrics used to date are designed to assess outcomes following rib fractures. Previous questionnaires lack assessment of rib fracture specific complications.

As this field of research grows, the need for a specific and validated assessment instrument for evaluation of quality of life after rib fractures has become increasingly important. A strong assessment tool validated and correlated to objective clinical outcomes with reliable and responsive measures will allow for consistent analysis and comparison of therapeutic interventions and management strategies.

Objective
To determine validity, reliability, and other measurement properties of the RIBQUAL instrument in patients with chest wall injuries.

Methods
Any patient meeting study criteria (i.e., patients with rib fractures, ages ≥18 to ≤99) will be asked to participate. The Rib-Qual questionnaire will then be co-administered along with one other previously utilized survey, the SF-36, to assess for correlation and validation of this new instrument. Patients will be asked to fill out the questionnaires at two time points, one week apart.

This study is actively enrolling patients.