

Dutch Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA): training improves scores for comprehensibility and difficulty

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Rationale:

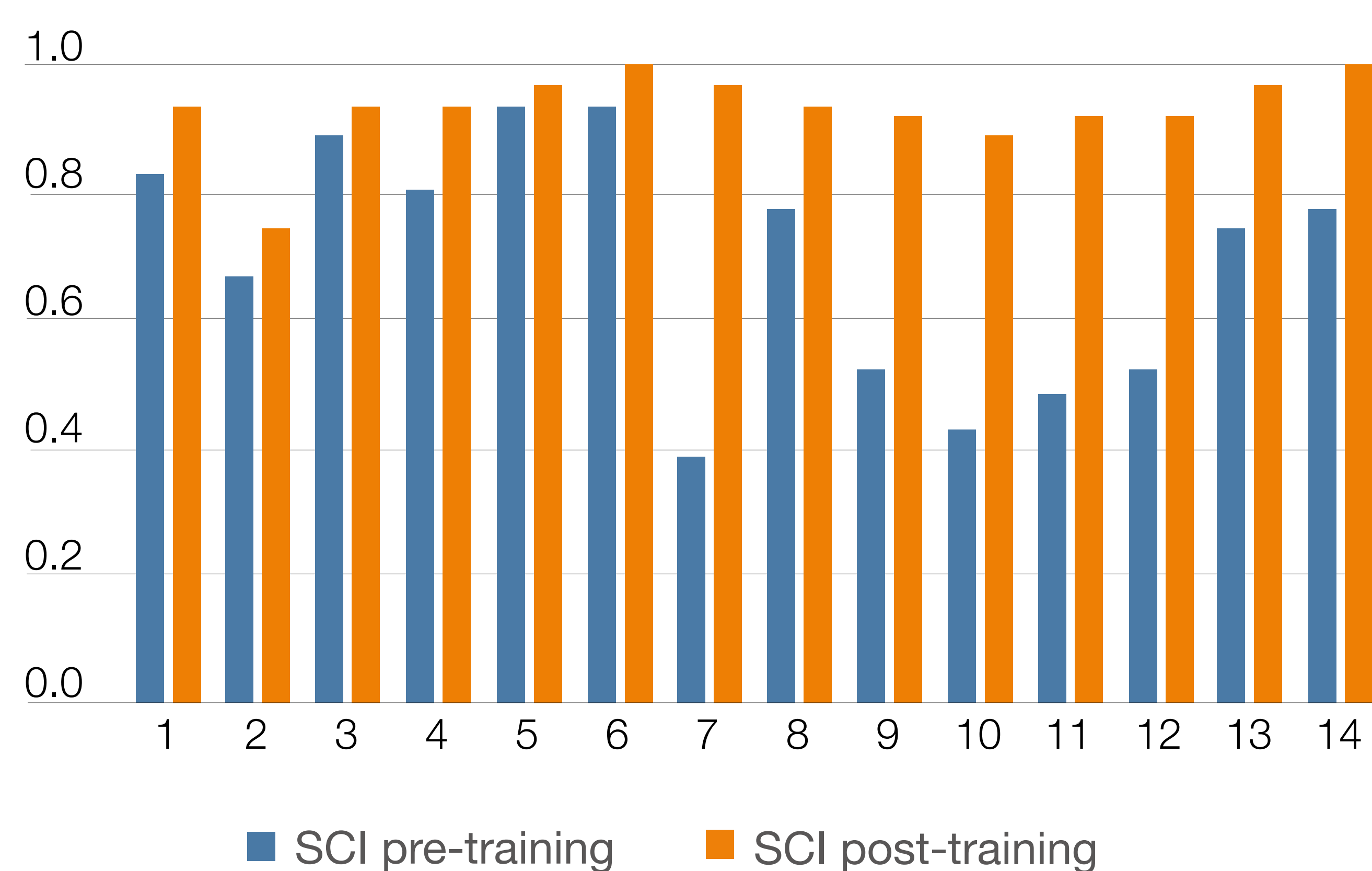
The Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) is a validated instrument to assess and monitor malnutrition. The PG-SGA consists of both patient-reported and professional-reported items. A professional should be able to correctly interpret all items. Untrained professionals may experience difficulty in completing some items of the PG-SGA.

Aim:

To explore changes in perceived comprehensibility and difficulty of the Dutch PG-SGA by health care professionals on use of the instrument, before and after training.

Methods:

- N=36 untrained health care professionals, of which 34 dietitians
- Instrument: 29 items on 4-point scale regarding comprehensibility and difficulty of PG-SGA
- T0: two weeks before instructional session
- T1: directly after instructional session on PG-SGA and training with physical exam
- Summarized comprehensibility indexes (SCI) and difficulty indexes (SDI) calculated for:
 - patient part of PG-SGA (PG-SGA Short Form (SF))
 - professional part of PG-SGA (PG-SGA_{pro})
 - full PG-SGA
- Cut off values: SCI \geq 0.80 and SDI \geq 0.80 = acceptable; SCI \geq 0.90 and SDI \geq 0.90 = excellent

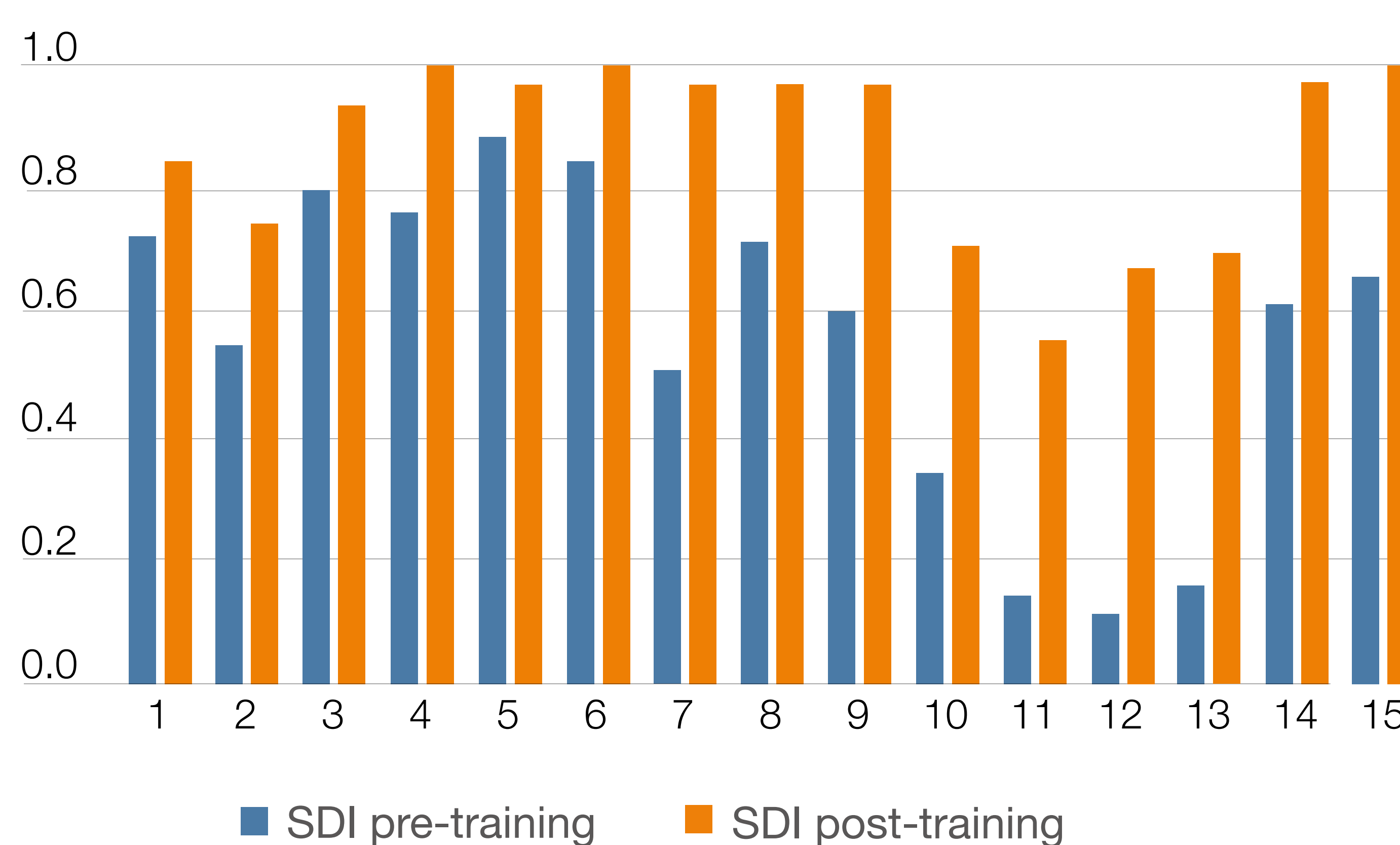


Item 1-4 = patient-reported part; item 5-12 = professional-reported part (item 9-12 = physical exam); item 13-14 = summary scores

Figure 1. Perceived comprehensibility per item by health care professionals pre- and post-training in the use of the PG-SGA

Results:

- Acceptable SCI of the PG-SGA SF both before (SCI: 0.80) and after training (SCI: 0.89)
- SCI of the PG-SGA_{pro} and full PG-SGA changed from unacceptable (SCI: 0.64; 0.69) to excellent (SCI: 0.95; 0.94)
- All SDIs changed from unacceptable (SDI for respectively PG-SGA SF, PG-SGA_{pro} and full PG-SGA: 0.71; 0.50; 0.57) to acceptable (SDI: 0.88; 0.85; 0.87)



Item 1-4 = patient-reported part; item 5-13 = professional-reported part (item 10-13 = physical exam); item 14-15 = summary scores

Figure 2. Perceived difficulty per item by health care professionals pre- and post-training in the use of the PG-SGA

Conclusion:

Training professionals in the use of the PG-SGA can be an effective strategy for improving the level of both comprehensibility and difficulty.



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