

The application of future workshops for the development of patient-reported outcomes within osteoarthritis

Natasha Lee Sørensen¹, Simon Kristoffer Johansen², Louise Hansen¹, Janus Laust Thomsen², Lars Holger Ehlers¹

1 Danish Center for Healthcare Improvements, Faculty of Social Science, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark

2 Research Unit for General Practice in Aalborg, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark

Corresponding author: ns@business.aau.dk

INTRODUCTION: The future workshop (FW) is a method designed in the 1970s by the Austrian Robert Jungk, and developed to create visions in a problem-solving process. FW builds upon group work, which has its roots in social constructivism. The FW consists of three main phases;

- the critique phase; deals with the appointed theme with a critical approach.
- the fantasy phase; the participants are instructed to describe a utopia to solve the problem.
- the implementation phase; evaluates ideas attained in the fantasy phase concerning potential implementation in everyday practice.

In the preparation phase, a theme for the FW is defined. A mandatory oral introduction to the theme is prepared. Additionally, facilitation is necessary to promote the working process, and creativity tools are applied to promote a creative thinking process.

No in-depth descriptions of the use of the FW in a Danish healthcare setting have been found.

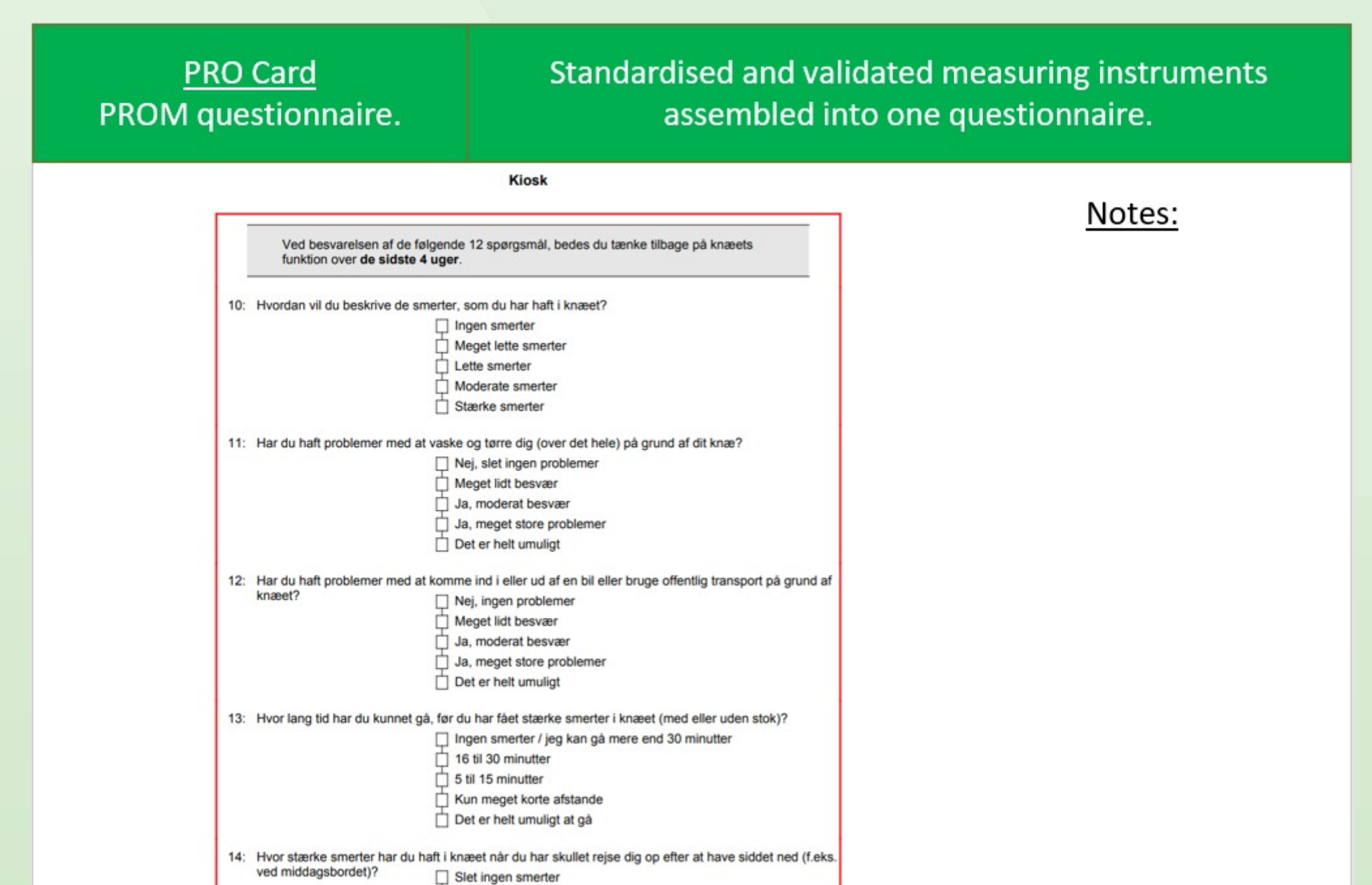
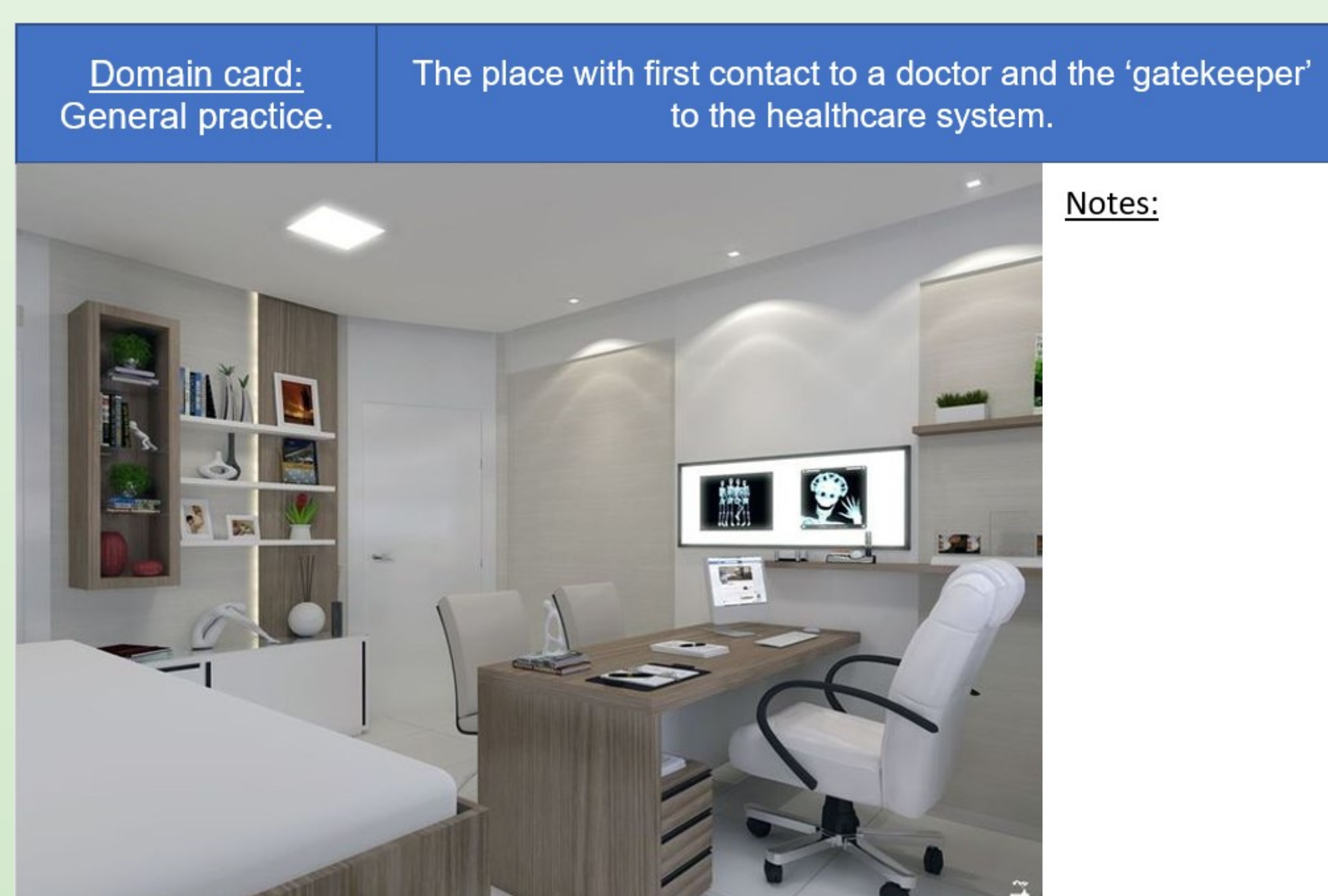
OBJECTIVE: Investigation of the applicability and value of using FWs to create visions in a problem-solving process on an empirical case; the use of patient-reported outcomes (PRO) within knee/hip osteoarthritis (OA).

CONCLUSION: It can be concluded that the application of FWs within an OA setting has produced great contextual and application-oriented data that can lead to further investigation of the use of PRO within OA. The application of FW demands deliberate consideration concerning desired knowledge, and whether this knowledge can benefit the study. The completion of FWs suggests that FWs may be used for elicitation of knowledge in a healthcare setting in the future.

METHODS: The theme of the FWs was defined to concern the use of PRO within treatment of knee and hip OA. An oral presentation was composed based on the theme. A facilitator was appointed to facilitate all FWs. The design of the FWs were constructed on the basis of the three predefined phases of FWs;

- The critique phase had the aim of identifying problems in the contact with the OA patient.
- The fantasy phase had the aim of describing the ultimate scenario for the patient's course of treatment.
- The implementation phase had the aim of embedding solutions from the fantasy phase into a realistic scenario.

A card game was envisioned to act as the creativity tool. The card game consisted of three types of cards; domain cards, representing locations defined in the course of treatment of hip/knee OA (picture on the left); problem cards, representing problematic situations in the contact with the OA patient; and newly developed PRO cards (picture on the right), representing the possible solution in the contact with the OA patient. Each type of card had three blank cards attached, with room for additional self-made cards. A pilot test was conducted with the aim of testing the validity of design and the developed card game.



RESULTS: Three FWs were conducted in the spring of 2018: one for general practice (March 6th), one for orthopaedic surgery (March 13th), and one for the municipality of Aalborg (May 25th). All FWs achieved the desired aim of creating visions in a problem-solving process and audio was recorded with the purpose of future investigation through qualitative analysis. Participants demonstrated engaged discussions during all FWs. The workshops were evaluated regarding method and design through semi-structured interviews with three participants after each FW. General satisfaction with the participation, design and facilitation of the FW was expressed. It was found that the introductory presentation was of great importance for the remainder of the workshop including the participant's following group work. It was also discovered that the participant's former knowledge of the theme and the communal relationship among the participants had an impact on the result of the FW.

