Overview of study design

Selection of 6 SR and 9 SA case vignettes. The SR and SA labels were used as reference

Initial study
- 26 GPs evaluated 15 case vignettes with the questionnaire.
- 10 case vignettes proved to be clear SR or SA and 5 case vignettes ambiguous.
- 1 clear SA case vignette added.
- 11 clear SR or SA (the clear-case vignette group) and 5 ambiguous SR or SA (the ambiguous-case vignette group).

Validation study
Adjustment of the vignettes

Inclusion of 49 family physicians using the questionnaire to evaluate case vignettes

Analyzing data
- Principal Component Analysis as factor analysis, for all items (see Table 1).
- Spearman's rank correlation between reference labels and judgment by study population for both the clear and ambiguous case vignettes, for all items (see Tables 2, 3).
- Cronbach's alpha as a measure for internal consistency, for all items.
- Cross tabulation visualized agreement between reference labels and final judgment (item 7) by the study population for the clear and ambiguous case vignettes (see Table 4).
- Weighted Kappa with quadratic weights as measure of agreement between classification in clear sense of reassurance, clear sense of alarm and ambiguous case vignettes and the study population's final judgment (item 7).

Linguistic validation procedure (see Text box 1)
- 2 separate forward-backward translations.
- Consensus meeting.
- Check by 10 US family physicians.

Explanation of abbreviations: SR = 'sense of reassurance', SA = 'sense of alarm'