

NATIONAL RECORD OF AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES IN URODYNAMIC UNITS IN SPAIN

Hypothesis / aims of study

The objective of this study was to build up a national register that is representative of urologists with responsibility in functional pathology urodynamic units, their characteristics, age, training, availability of auxiliary staff, specialisation units, support by the urology department to the unit, technology, hospital resources, general equipment, urodynamic equipments, computerisation, register programmes, report programmes, availability of infrastructure and disposable products

Study design, materials and methods

National, multicentre, descriptive, retrospective epidemiological study of 2008 and 2009. Data were obtained from 47 urodynamic units. Statistical analysis was conducted using the software SPSS 14.0. Quality control on data obtention and rules of internal consistency and ranges to control inconsistencies were conducted. Data were extrapolated and weighted, taking into account the inhabitants of each health area, out of a total of just over 17 million patients covered per year, for a census of 46 million in Spain overall. We are only considering the population of the area of each unit. In all the urodynamic units, the distribution by sexes and ages is as observed for the Spanish population overall. The standard profile variables of the person in charge with urodynamic units are studied with socio-demographic data. Compartmentalisation of health areas, patient sources, services that refer patients, types of computing programs, age of equipment and availability of selective electromyography, pelvic floor rehabilitation, and pelvic floor surgery were studied

Results

The standard profile of person in charge of Urodynamics unit is: Forty-eight-year-old male, practicing Urology (89%) and Urodynamics (70.21%) for more than 10 years. 72% are engaged in public setting while 25.3% are public and private, and only 2.13 % in private offices. Median population area of each urodynamics unit is 300,000 inhabitants. 31 Units receive patients directly from Primary Care.

Strengths:

97.8 of the units have an agenda and are part of the Department's activity. Only in one case there is no qualified nurse and 4 have no modern facilities. We have experienced a major renovation and availability of urodynamics equipment in the last 10 years. Relative good availability of complementary equipment (ultrasound, bladder scan, selective EMG exploration table).

Weakeness:

Too large a variety of report programmes, integrate graphic plots in a uniform standard, Computerisation of Patient Register Units. People in charge of Urodynamic units are old. Surgery of functional diseases is relegated to the end of the waiting list. Pelvic floor muscle exercises is the first treatment alternative for stress urinary incontinence according to the Clinical Practice Guidelines. 47.62% do not do so due to the lack of material or human resources. 39% attend to it sporadically, without an agenda. 28% cannot do so due to health-care pressure. 33% of the units state that they have less than a 25% failure rate in the treatment of SUI pelvic floor muscle training. 51.3% resolve complications in gynaecological surgery for urinary incontinence in women

Interpretation of results

Urodynamic units in Spain are doing really well, although we must be critical and improve by requesting resources to improve the comprehensive care of urinary incontinence, establishing therapeutic alternatives based on the pelvic floor training in our units, which is currently not being provided.

Concluding message

There are modern facilities and qualified personnel to care for the functional and urodynamic condition at all levels in the Country. There is need of standardise reports and types of records and ensure that the units provide integral management in the diagnostic treatment of our patients

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	Approval of the Ethical Committee of the Hospital Universitario de Elche No patient informed consent is necessary It is a National register sponsored by the Spanish Association of Urology and Spanish group of Funtional and Female Urology and Urodynamics It is not a clinical trial with patients, it is an Epidemiological Study The National Epidemiological Register was funded by Astellas
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	Yes
<i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i>	Ethical Committee of the University Hospital of Elche (Spain)
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	No