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Tibaek S¹, Dehlendorff C²

1. Copenhagen University Hospital, Glostrup, 2. Informatics and Mathematical Modelling, Technical University of Denmark

IS BARTHEL INDEX A RELEVANT MEASURE FOR MEASURING PREVALENCE OF URINARY INCONTINENCE IN STROKE PATIENTS?

Hypothesis / aims of study

To compare the prevalence of urinary incontinence (UI) measured by Barthel Index and the Danish Prostate Symptom Score (DAN-PSS-1) questionnaire in stroke patients.

Study design, materials and methods

A cross-sectional, hospital based survey was initiated whereby 407 stroke patients, average age 67 (SD 12) years with a mean interval of 101 days since onset of last stroke at inclusion. The stroke patients self-reported the prevalence of UI by Barthel Index and the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire.

Results

The prevalence of UI was 10.5 % measured by the Barthel Index and 49 % by the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire. Furthermore, the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire distinguished between types of UI (38 % urge UI, 28 % stress UI and 14 % other UI).

There were significantly fewer stroke patients who reported UI by the Barthel Index compared to the DAN-PSS questionnaire in term of urge UI ($p < 0.001$), stress UI ($p < 0.001$) and other UI ($p < 0.001$)

Interpretation of results

The results showed that DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire contains more specific UI information compared to the Barthel Index. Fewer stroke patients reported UI by the Barthel Index compared to the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire and moreover the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire enables identification of different UI-types.

Concluding message

The Barthel Index is not sensitive to the UI prevalence; instead the authors suggest using a more specific instrument such as the DAN-PSS-1 questionnaire.

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<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>	The Ethical Committee for the Copenhagen County
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes