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## Abstract Reproduction Form B-1

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Title (type in CAPITAL LETTERS)	<b>PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF VOIDING DIFFICULTIES IN WOMEN: ARE SUBJECTIVE SYMPTOMS SUBSTANTIATED BY OBJECTIVE URODYNAMIC DATA?</b>

**Aims of Study:** To examine the prevalence and characteristics of voiding difficulties in women.

**Methods:** 206 consecutive female patients who attended a urogynecology clinic were recruited. Patients were interviewed regarding the presence and severity of symptoms that would suggest voiding difficulties, i.e., hesitancy, straining to void, weak or prolonged stream, intermittent stream, double voiding, incomplete emptying, reduction and positional changes to start or complete voiding. Urodynamic evidence of voiding difficulty was considered as a peak flow rate <12 ml/sec (voided volume >100 ml), or residual urine volume >150 ml, on two or more readings. Residual urinary volume, flow patterns and pressure flow parameters were analyzed and compared between symptomatic and asymptomatic patients who had urodynamic parameters of voiding difficulties.

**Results:** 127 women reported voiding difficulty symptomatology, while 79 others were free of such symptoms (61.7% and 38.3% of the study population, respectively). Urodynamic diagnosis of voiding difficulty was made in 40 women (19.4% of the study population): 27 in the symptomatic, and 13 in the asymptomatic groups (21.2% and 16.5%, respectively). Only one patient had voiding difficulty due to bladder outlet obstruction. All other cases of low flow rate were due to impaired detrusor contractility.

**Conclusions:** Objective evidence of voiding difficulty may be found in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, and is usually due to impaired detrusor contractility. The clinical significance of the abnormal flow parameters in asymptomatic patients is unclear.