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Title: DO FERTILE WOMEN REMEMBER THE ONSET OF STRESS INCONTINENCE ? RECALL BIAS 5 YEARS AFTER 1st DELIVERY.

Aim Of Study:

To evaluate fertile women's ability to recall the onset of stress incontinence.

Methods:

In a longitudinal cohort study 278 primiparae were interviewed about incontinence after 1st delivery and again 5 years later using a tested questionnaire. In 83 women with stress incontinence 5 years after 1st delivery history of onset was compared with data from the initial questionnaire by grouping women with onset before 1st pregnancy, during 1st pregnancy, during 1st puerperium or after 1st puerperium. Agreement was tested by the use of Kappa statistics. Values below 0.4 represented poor agreement. Women with missing or misunderstood answer 5 years after 1st delivery were excluded from the statistical calculations.

Results:

49% (33/68) of the women recalled the onset of stress incontinence inaccurately, 26% (18/68) in agreement with the answer 5 years before and 25% in a way that could be interpreted as a correct recall if the reference group was extended to two groups. The statistical agreement for the each of the four groups of women with different recall of onset varied with a Kappa from 0.02 to 0.38.

Conclusions:

Five years after 1st delivery stress incontinent women seem to recall the onset of the symptom inaccurately. History of onset should therefore be interpreted cautiously in the daily clinic and the scientific research.

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