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Title: The relationship between objective criterion of incontinence(frequency of incontinence, SEAPI score) and quality of life in females of endemic area.

Aims of study:

The goal of this study was to determine the relationship between objective criterion of incontinence and quality of life in community-dwelling women over 40 years of age.

Methods:

The study was conducted in a typical farming village of Jang-ma in southern region of Korea. From February 13th to February 19th, a questionnaire survey was performed in 554, total of 811 women. Of the objective criterion of incontinence, the frequencies of incontinence were divided into 5 groups(group I: less than 10 times/year, group II: 1-2 times/month, group III: 1 time/week, group IV: more than 2 times/week and group V: more than 1 time/day) and the SEAPI score into 3 groups according to the sum of each categories(group A: 0-5, group B: 6-10 and group C: 11-15). And each objective criterion were compared with the responders' quality of life indices(daily life, social life and sexual life), cognition indices about symptom and acceptance indices about treatment.

Results:

Of 554 women participated in our study, 274 experienced stress urinary incontinence in their past 1 year. The prevalence of urinary incontinence was 49.5%(274/554). The numbers in each group I, II, III, IV and V were 64, 110, 40, 31 and 29 respectively and in each group A, B and C were 232, 41 and 1 respectively. In the study of influences on quality of life according to the frequency of incontinence and SEAPI score, statistically significant correlations were noted at group III, IV and V and group B in daily life and social life categories ($p < 0.05$), but not in sexual life categories($p > 0.05$). In the study of influences on cognition of symptom, group V and group B had statistically significant correlation($p < 0.05$). And in the study of influences on acceptance of treatment, group III, IV and V and group B had statistically significant correlation ($p < 0.05$). And the enrolled number of group C was too small to make stastical meaning.

Conclusions:

In the aspect of quality of life and acceptance of treatment, significant objective criterion of incontinence were more than '1 time/week' in frequency and more than '6-10' in SEAPI score. And this preliminary result may be used as reference index in education, enlightenment and treatment of incontinent women.