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Title: Danish general practitioner's knowledge about and attitude to assessment and treatment of female urinary incontinence.

Studies have shown that incontinence can be successfully managed in general practice. Adequate evaluation and treatment requires knowledge about and a positive attitude to female urinary incontinence. However, scant information is available on general practitioner's knowledge about an attitude to assessment and treatment of urinary incontinence in women.

The Aim Of Study:

was to elucidate Danish general practitioner's knowledge about an attitude to women with urinary incontinence.

Methods:

A national questionnaire about urinary incontinence in women was posted to 1700 randomly selected GP's in Denmark in 1998 and 1999.

Results:

A total of 1111 (65%) GP's responded at least once. Approximately 50% expressed a positive interest for management of urinary incontinence. Only 24% felt that their knowledge was sufficient for their management of women with urinary incontinence. Approximately 50% and 66% of the GP's would most likely refer a patient with stress incontinence or urge incontinence respectively to a specialist. The GP's proposals for assessment and treatment were mainly in accordance with good clinical practice. There were only minor changes in knowledge and attitude from 1998 to 1999.

Conclusions:

GP's interest for urinary incontinence is moderate and the management is characterized by a high referral rate to a specialist. The main part of GP's considers their knowledge as insufficient. There is a need for education to ensure sufficient knowledge and to change attitude so that first line assessment and treatment of urinary incontinence can be carried out successfully in general practice in Denmark.