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**Authors:** P Moorthy, MC Lapitan, PHC Lim  
**Institution:** Changi General Hospital, Singapore; Philippine General Hospital, Manila, Philippines  
**Title:** PREVALENCE OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER IN ASIAN MALES: AN EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEY

**Aims:**

Prevalence of overactive bladder, the predominant urinary disorder has not been quantified in many parts of the world. The present paper highlights the epidemiology of overactive bladder and the influence of demographic factors on overactive bladder in Asian males.

**Methods:**

A comprehensive validated questionnaire based survey featuring symptoms, degrees of bother and treatment measures were used to assess the prevalence of overactive bladder. The study involved 26 centres from 11 countries of Asian continent (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand); where necessary the questionnaire was translated into local language. The questionnaire was divided into two parts *viz.*, 1) demographics and voiding frequencies and 2) overactive bladder symptoms. Degree of bother was measured with a scoring system of 0-5. Statistical relationship between demography and overactive bladder was determined using  $\chi^2$  independent test.

**Results:**

The prevalence of overactive bladder was 44.9% (n= 2369). The age of the respondents varied from 18 to 70 and more. With respect to demographics, incidence was more common with professional workers (42.9%), high-income group (26%, income of US\$ 800 and more) and urban dwellers (63.8%). Frequency (36.9%), urgency (33.9%), frequency and urgency (10%) were the most common symptoms of overactive bladder. Urge incontinence symptoms were noticed in 13%. Severe degree of botherness quantified in 1% of total cohort and of which only 18% received treatment for overactive bladder with general practitioners and specialists being the preferred doctors in 34.8% and 28.3% respectively. Age, habitual environment, family history and type of toilets used were found to have statistical relationship with overactive bladder.

**Conclusions:**

Compared to European population, the prevalence of overactive bladder in Asian males is high. The incidence is more common with patients of less than 59 years old. The treatment rate for disease symptom is very low compared to the western world, suggesting a need for a better orientation of patients and more research for effective management of overactive bladder.

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