

A STUDY ON SYMPTOMS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ON CHINESE WOMEN WITH UTERINE PROLAPSE

Hypothesis / aims of study

The impairment of the Quality of Life (QOL) in women suffered from uterine prolapse is well studied in western countries but the information is limited in Chinese population. This is a preliminary report on the symptoms and QOL in Chinese women with uterine prolapse with or without urinary symptoms. Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire (PFIQ) are comprehensive instruments assessing the symptoms, severity and impact of different types of pelvic floor disorders, including pelvic organ prolapse on a woman's activities and well-being. This study is aim at evaluate the symptoms and quality of life (QOL) in Chinese women with uterine prolapse using the Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and the Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire (PFIQ).

Study design, materials and methods

All Chinese women attending the Urogynecology clinics of the study institute with uterine prolapse were invited to join the study. Exclusion criteria include an age of less than 18 years or mental incapacity. Ethics approval was obtained at the local institution and written informed consent was obtained prior to study entry. Subjects completed the Chinese version of PFDI and PFIQ before they were assessed by the attending physician. Physical examination was performed by the physician. Any urinary symptoms including urgency, frequency and any urinary incontinence are recorded. Severity of pelvic organ prolapse was assessed by using Pelvic Organ Prolapse-Quantification System (POP-Q).

Results

At the time of this report, 68 women completed the study. The mean age of the women was 61.7+/-10.6 years. Fifty (73.5%) of them had concomitant urinary symptoms. The chief complain was uterine prolapse in 54 (79.4%) while the other complained of the urinary symptoms. In all, 35 (51.5%) had stage 1, 26 (38.2%) stage 2 and 7 (10.3%) had stage 3 uterine prolapse. The overall scoring of PFDI and PFIQ and the comparison of the scoring in women with or without urinary symptoms were shown in Table 1. The scoring according to the degree of prolapse was shown in Table II.

Interpretation of results

Women who had concomitant urinary symptoms had significantly more severe symptoms and impairment of QOL. There were significantly higher POP subscale score with advancing degree of uterine prolapse; however, the PFIQ was not affected.

Concluding message

The QOL in Chinese women with uterine prolapse were impaired; their symptoms and QOL were more severe if they had concomitant urinary symptoms. They had a higher POP subscale scoring with more advance degree of uterine prolapse, however, the PFIQ was not affected by the degree of prolapse.

Table I. The overall scoring of PFDI and PFIQ for women with uterine prolapse and the scoring between the 2 groups according to their urinary symptoms

	Overall mean (N = 68)	Prolapse with urinary symptoms (n = 18)	no Prolapse urinary symptoms (n = 50)	with P-value*
Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory				
Urinary distress inventory	76.1 (56.1)	48.3(52.9)	86.0 (54.3)	0.01
Pelvic organ prolapse distress inventory	87.6 (63.8)	66.8(55.7)	95.2 (65.4)	0.11
Colo-rectal-anal distress inventory	66.7 (62.6)	37.5(30.7)	77.2 (67.8)	<0.01
Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire				
Urinary impact questionnaire	83.4 (92.1)	30.7 (65.2)	102.8 (93.6)	<0.01
Colo-rectal-anal impact questionnaire	36.4 (74.7)	1.9 (5.9)	48.8 (83.9)	<0.01
Pelvic organ prolapse impact questionnaire	90.0 (104.1)	54.0 (90.0)	102.9 (106.6)	0.09

All scores were presented in mean (SD)

* Independent t test was used to compare the 2 groups of women with or without urinary symptoms.

Table II. The scoring of PFDI and PFIQ for women according to their degree of uterine prolapse

	Stage I (n = 35)	Stage II (n = 26)	Stage III (n = 7)	P-value*
Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory				
Urinary distress inventory	63.2 (43.7)	87.9 (63.4)	96.4 (74.3)	0.14
Pelvic organ prolapse distress inventory	63.7 (46.1)	110.9 (71.1)	120.7 (73.7)	<0.01
Colo-rectal-anal distress inventory	55.9 (53.0)	85.4 (74.6)	51.0 (46.0)	0.15
Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire				
Urinary Impact Questionnaire	68.4 (76.3)	102.2 (105.0)	97.1 (113.5)	0.35
Colo-rectal-anal impact questionnaire	23.2 (58.1)	48.0 (93.1)	59.0 (70.2)	0.31
Pelvic organ prolapse impact questionnaire	60.7 (87.2)	117.2 (111.5)	135.2 (124.3)	0.05

All scores were presented in mean (SD)

*Independent t test was used to compare the 3 groups of women according to their degree of uterine prolapse.

<i>Specify source of funding or grant</i>	NONE
<i>Is this a clinical trial?</i>	No
<i>What were the subjects in the study?</i>	HUMAN
<i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i>	Yes
<i>Specify Name of Ethics Committee</i>	Joint The Chinese University of Hong Kong - New Territories East Cluster Clinical Research Ethics Committee
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes