

A STUDY ON SYMPTOMS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ON CHINESE WOMEN WITH URINARY SYMPTOMS

Hypothesis / aims of study

It has been shown that women with urinary incontinence had impairment of quality of life (QOL). However, information in Chinese women was limited. This was a preliminary report on the symptoms and quality of life of Chinese women suffering from urinary incontinence. Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire (PFIQ) are the comprehensive instruments assessing the symptoms, severity and impact of different types of pelvic floor disorders, including urinary incontinence on a woman's activities and well-being (1).

Study design, materials and methods

All Chinese women attending the Gynecology clinics of the study institute with urinary incontinence were invited to join the study. Exclusion criteria include an age of less than 18 years or mental incapacity. 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. Clinical data and socio-demographic data were obtained; followed by examination by the physician. Midstream urinary test was performed to rule out urinary tract infection. Urodynamic study including both uroflowmetry and cystometry, which included provocative twin-channel subtracted cystometry at a filling rate of 80 ml/min and pressure/flow studies were performed to investigate for their causes of urinary incontinence. A stress test was performed and with reduction of the genitourinary prolapse if any. A higher score of PFDI and PFIQ represented more severe symptoms and poorer QOL of the women. Ethics approval was obtained at the local institution.

Results

At the time of this report, 103 women completed the study. The mean age of the women was 57.5±10.8 years. The chief complain was urinary incontinence in 61 (59.2%) while urogenital prolapse was the chief complain of the other 42 (40.8%). Forty-two (40.8%) had normal urodynamics study, 48 (46.6%) had urinary stress incontinence, 5 (4.9%) had detrusor overactivity, 4 (3.9%) had mixed urinary incontinence and 4 (3.9%) had other diagnoses. After excluding the 4 women who had other diagnoses, the scoring of PFDI and PFIQ of women with different diagnoses of urodynamics study were shown in Table I and II. There was no significant difference in the scoring between different groups.

Interpretation of results

Women with urinary incontinence had impaired QOL. However, there was no significant difference in the scoring with different diagnoses.

Concluding message

Women with urinary incontinence had impaired QOL but there was no significant difference in the scoring with different diagnoses.

Table I. The scoring of PFDI in different group of women with urinary incontinence

PFDI	Diagnosis of Urodynamics study				P-value
	Normal (n = 42)	USI (n = 48)	DO (n = 5)	Mixed UI (n = 4)	
POPDI	98.3 (61.9)	78.1 (53.9)	100.0 (69.5)	132.7 (100.8)	0.19
General	40.6 (24.1)	33.4 (23.4)	40.0 (28.4)	53.6 (37.5)	0.30
Anterior	24.0 (23.7)	23.4 (23.0)	28.3 (18.5)	39.6 (32.4)	0.59
Posterior	33.7 (31.3)	21.4 (25.0)	31.7 (36.5)	39.6 (32.2)	0.18
CRADI	88.9 (70.9)	78.5 (68.1)	83.2 (44.7)	74.0 (47.2)	0.90
Obstructive	33.7 (31.3)	21.4 (25.0)	31.7 (36.5)	39.6 (32.2)	0.18
Incontinence	16.7 (18.4)	18.0 (18.3)	9.0 (5.5)	12.5 (15.5)	0.71
Pain / irritative	24.8 (20.1)	23.3 (21.7)	30.0 (11.5)	18.8 (14.4)	0.85
Rectal prolapse	13.7 (19.3)	15.9 (22.7)	12.5 (17.7)	3.1 (6.3)	0.68
UDI	85.9 (52.8)	97.8 (49.8)	90.0 (39.5)	102.4 (84.9)	0.73
Obstructive / discomfort	28.3 (19.6)	25.8 (19.2)	28.8 (18.7)	42.3 (35.6)	0.46
Irritative	32.9 (24.0)	35.4 (21.0)	37.8 (18.7)	44.4 (29.0)	0.76
Stress	24.7 (19.6)	36.6 (23.4)	23.3 (20.5)	15.6 (23.2)	0.03

Values are presented in mean (SD)

Table II. The scoring of PFIQ in different group of women with urinary incontinence

PFIQ	Diagnosis of Urodynamics study				P-value
	Normal (n = 42)	USI (n = 48)	DO (n = 5)	Mixed UI (n = 4)	
POPIQ	68.2 (90.0)	58.6 (87.7)	50.7 (103.3)	121.33 (147.8)	0.61
Travel	15.3 (23.1)	14.5 (25.6)	13.3 (26.8)	37.5 (46.1)	0.39
Social relationships	12.1 (19.6)	8.7 (15.1)	7.9 (17.6)	14.4 (24.9)	0.77
Emotional health	20.7 (26.4)	18.6 (27.7)	15.0 (26.8)	33.3 (38.6)	0.74
Physical activity	20.0 (26.3)	17.8 (27.1)	14.4 (32.3)	36.1 (42.7)	0.62
CRADIQ	38.3 (70.8)	36.0 (65.7)	44.2 (70.6)	68.3 (81.3)	0.84
Travel	9.0 (18.5)	10.6 (20.4)	11.1 (14.2)	22.2 (27.2)	0.64
Social relationships	7.5 (16.9)	4.7 (10.5)	7.3 (16.3)	7.6 (15.2)	0.81
Emotional health	11.9 (20.0)	10.3 (20.8)	15.8 (22.5)	26.0 (30.5)	0.52
Physical activity	9.9 (17.8)	10.3 (19.9)	10.0 (19.4)	12.5 (18.4)	1.00
UIQ	87.2 (85.8)	114.0 (78.9)	112.5 (118.4)	130.0 (115.3)	0.44
Travel	23.5 (22.2)	35.1 (25.4)	30.0 (29.0)	44.4 (36.0)	0.11
Social relationships	15.2 (19.3)	16.5 (15.9)	17.0 (21.1)	14.4 (23.1)	0.98
Emotional health	27.5 (27.1)	33.2 (24.9)	36.7 (37.3)	40.6 (27.1)	0.62
Physical activity	20.9 (23.1)	29.3 (23.4)	28.9 (31.8)	30.6 (35.9)	0.40

Values are presented in mean (SD)

References

1. Barber MD, Kuchibhatla MN, Pieper CF, Bump RC. Psychometric evaluation of 2 comprehensive condition-specific quality of life instruments for women with pelvic floor disorders. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2001;185:1388-95

<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

Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?

Yes

Was informed consent obtained from the patients?

Yes
