

THE DIAGNOSTIC ROLE OF TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASONOGRAPHIC BLADDER WALL THICKNESS IN THE FEMALE URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

Urinary incontinence is the disease that mostly affects women worldwide and impaired quality of life. Initial clinical assessment performed in most patients is usually ineffective and urodynamic examination generally provides definitive diagnosis. However, urodynamics is not practical in all patients. Thus, the diagnosis of urinary incontinence needs useful and practical methods [1].

Study design, materials and methods

The study was performed at our institution between January 2003 and March 2006. The aim of the study was to determine the diagnostic role of bladder wall thickness measured by transabdominal ultrasonography in the 82 female patients recruited from outpatient clinic. Forty-three patients were diagnosed as genuine stress incontinence (GSI) and 39 had non-neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NNDO) after diagnostic workup including urodynamic assessment, while 31 women patients without lower urinary tract symptoms served as a control group. The bladder wall thickness was measured transabdominally at supine position in three separate places of the bladder with a volume of 200 ml; the anterior wall, the right and the left lateral wall of the bladder. Data from 3 groups was compared statistically.

Results

There was no significant correlation between mean bladder wall thickness and age in the whole study group and all subgroups. Examination of the 95 % confidence intervals reveals no overlap in all diagnostic subgroups. Mean bladder wall thickness was found to be significantly different in all of the diagnostic groups and whole study group. The positive predictive value of diagnosing NNDO in women with a mean bladder wall thickness greater than 4.88 mm. was 53.9 % and negative predictive value was 90%. Using a mean bladder wall thickness greater than 4.88 mm. as a cut- off value, the sensitivity was 87.1 %, and specificity was 60.8 % for diagnosis of NNDO.

Interpretation of results

Our findings show the bladder wall thickness measurement by 2D-transabdominal ultrasonography may be a useful and sensitive screening test in the diagnosis of both urge incontinence from NNDO and stress incontinence from GSI.

Concluding message

The prospective case-control study assessed the diagnostic role of bladder wall thickness measurement by 2D-transabdominal ultrasonography reveals that bladder wall thickness measurement is a useful and sensitive screening test in the diagnosis of both urge incontinence from NNDO and stress incontinence from GSI.

References

1. Khullar V, Salvatore S, Cardozo L, Bourne TH, Abbott D, Kelleher C. A novel technique for measuring bladder wall thickness in women using transvaginal ultrasound. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol.* 1994;4:220-3.

Specify source of funding or grant	None
Is this a clinical trial?	Yes
Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?	No
Is this a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT)?	No
What were the subjects in the study?	HUMAN
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	No
This study did not require ethics committee approval because	This procedure is a routine part of our clinical process
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	Yes
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	Yes