

EARLY RESULTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN NEUROGENIC BLADDER DATABASE: ARE PATIENTS WITH NEUROGENIC BLADDER SATISFIED WITH THEIR BLADDER MANAGEMENT?

Hypothesis / aims of study

The Neurogenic Bladder Database at the University of Michigan was developed to follow patients with a diagnosis of neurogenic bladder (NGB) prospectively over time. Through this database, we want to evaluate factors that impact quality of life. Specifically in this study, we have taken this information to determine how satisfied these patients are with the different forms of catheter management for their bladder.

Study design, materials and methods:

IRB approval was obtained in September of 2009. Patients are seen in our outpatient clinic with the diagnosis of NGB and are consented to participate in the database. Patients with spinal cord injury, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, and transverse myelitis are included. Questionnaires pertaining to QOL are completed including questions pertaining to neurogenic bladder, neurogenic bowel, incontinence symptom index, fecal incontinence severity index, and SF-12. Medical record data is also available including urological history, lab values, and diagnostic studies. This study focused on questions 14 and 15 in the neurogenic bladder database questionnaire. Question 14 asks, "If you had to spend the rest of your life with your current form of bladder management, how would you feel about that?" The responses range from 1 being "delighted" to 7 being "terrible". Question 15 asks, "How satisfied are you with the way your bladder is managed?" The responses range on a scale from 1 "extremely satisfied" to 10 "extremely unhappy". In this study, we specifically looked only at patients whose bladder is managed with a catheter, i.e. clean intermittent catheterization (CIC), suprapubic tube, or foley catheter.

Results

There have been 100 patients consented to participate in the database. 58 patients have completed the QOL questionnaires and were included in this study. Patients with spinal cord injury comprised of the majority (67%) of this patient population. Ages ranged from 21-71. There were 47 (81%) patients who did CIC, 6 (10%) with a suprapubic catheter, and 5 (9%) with a foley catheter. Patients who did CIC had a mean score of 3 (1-6) "mostly satisfied" for Q 14 and a mean score of 5 (1-10) "neutral" for Q15. Patients with a suprapubic tube had a mean score of 3 (1-6) "mostly satisfied" for Q14 and a mean score of 4 (1-7) "satisfied" for Q15. Patients with a foley catheter had a mean score of 6 (1-7) "unhappy" for Q14 and a mean score of 8 (5-10) "very unhappy" for Q15.

Concluding message

Patients are satisfied with clean intermittent catheterization as a form of bladder management. This information can be used when counseling patients and their caregivers on the different forms of bladder management when a catheter needs to be used for drainage. Not only are there fewer complications with CIC, but in general, patients are satisfied with this form of bladder management. Patients are dissatisfied and unhappy with foley catheter drainage, and this should be avoided if at all possible.

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<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>	IRB committee at the University of Michigan
<i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i>	Yes
<i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i>	Yes