Urinary Leakage During Laughter in Children: Not Always True Giggle Incontinence

Accompanying bladder and/or bowel symptoms were present in 57.1% of children with laughter-induced incontinence.”

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CLINICAL QUESTION

Among children who leak urine during laughter, how often is this an isolated phenomenon versus part of broader bladder and bowel dysfunction?

STUDY DESIGN

Retrospective case series
28 children · January 2021–March 2026
Tertiary pelvic floor health center
Neurological, congenital and structural abnormalities excluded

ASSESSMENT

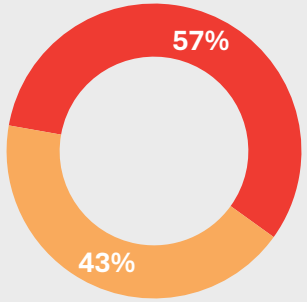
IBSS and PinQ questionnaires
Visual analog scale
3-day bladder diary
7-day Bristol stool diary

COHORT

10.5	67.9%	18.6
median age (range 5–17)	female 19 of 28	median BMI kg/m²

Patients were classified as isolated or non-isolated based on accompanying LUTS and/or bowel dysfunction.

PHENOTYPE DISTRIBUTION



16 / 28
Non-isolated

12 / 28
Isolated

ASSOCIATED FINDINGS

28.6%	28.6%	7.1%
nocturnal enuresis	bowel dysfunction	recurrent UTI

INTERPRETATION

The presenting symptom spans more than one clinical phenotype. Applying the GI label to every child may conceal relevant lower urinary tract or bowel symptoms.

Clinical implication
Complete bladder and bowel assessment before assigning a diagnosis or planning treatment.

References: Nevéus et al., J Urol 2006 · Logan & Blais, J Pediatr Urol 2017 · San et al., J Paediatr Child Health 2021