Acute Urinary retention (AUR) in females: Perception differences among different medical specialties

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Background: Female AUR occurs 1 in 100,000 every year. As female urinary retention is a contrasting situation as compared to men, the underlying conditions are minimally understood. This study aims to identify differences in perception regarding factors, diagnosis and management among urology and gynecology trainees and consultants with different work settings in nationwide hospitals across Pakistan.

Methodology: Across sectional study based on a questionnaire developed and piloted by Urogynecologists and Urologists. The questionnaire was disseminated to nationwide trainees and consultants of OBGYN and Urology who are working in hospital settings. The results were analysed as equally weighted average of the responses (rating average; RA) for each question. Chi-square test and Mann-Whitney U-test were used. P values of <0.05 were be considered to indicate statistical significance.

Results: 59.1% of participants were from Urology and 39.9% were from OBGYN. 84.7% of respondents worked in training Institutes while non-training Institutes accounted 15.3% of respondents. Decision-making and treatment approaches were different among both specialties. Differences were also observed between training and non-training institutes.

Conclusion: Management of female AUR varies across sub-specialties and between training and non-training institutes, likely due to differences in knowledge and experience. Its rarity further contributes to these inconsistencies. A guideline could help standardize care.