

APPLICATION OF THE D INDEX: NOMOGRAMS ALLOWING EVALUATION OF BLADDER OUTLET OBSTRUCTION (BOO) IN MEN FROM FREE UROFLOWS (FF)

Hypothesis / aims of study

Benign prostatic enlargement (BPE) and its consequences, BOO and acute urinary retention (AUR) are a common condition in the aging man. Abrams-Griffiths number (A-G) is considered as the gold standard to evaluate BOO. Unfortunately it needs invasive investigation.

The D index derived from FF has been developed to assist in the management of BPE patients [1]. Our purpose was to build nomograms, based on D (non invasive) to evaluate BOO in men, and usable by a general practitioner.

Study design, materials and methods

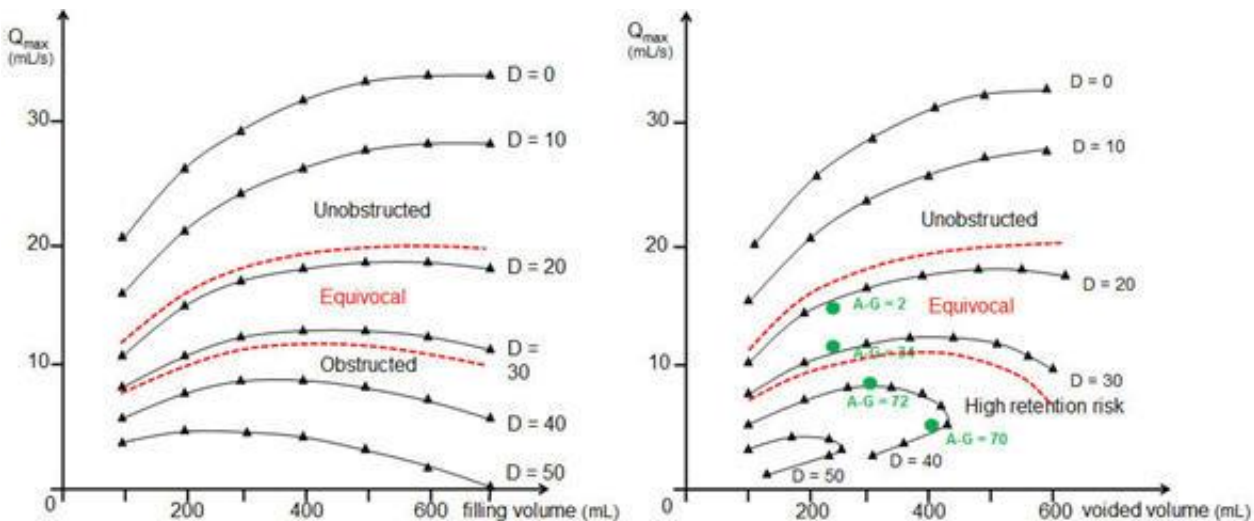
The VBN mathematical micturition model [2] was applied to analyze families of possible voidings having the same filling volume (V_{ini}) and the same flow curve but different detrusor pressure curves [1]. All had the same maximum flow rate (Q_{max}), voided volume (V_v) and post-void residual (PVR). One family was characterized by a value of D index (prostatic obstruction assuming a normal detrusor contractility i.e. $k = 1$) [1]. The value of D was a characteristic of a given patient and thus independent of the filling volume [1].

Simulations were performed for the V_{ini} range [100-700 mL]. Then, nomograms were built in the planes [$V_{ini} - Q_{max}$ and $V_v - Q_{max}$]. Correlation D (in cm H₂O) vs. A-G was <18.5 unobstructed, $18.5 \leq D \leq 32.5$ equivocal, $D > 32.5$ obstructed [1].

Examples of comparisons with A-G cut-off values were made.

Results

Iso-D curves in the plane [$V_{ini} - Q_{max}$] (left) and in the plane [$V_v - Q_{max}$] (right) were built. Algebraic fitting of the curves allowed accurate interpolations between curves. In red boundaries describe the A-G cut-off values. Four examples are given (green circles) of D vs. A-G.



Interpretation of results

Non-invasive evaluation of BOO in man remains a great challenge. Main proposals are ultrasound measurements and elaborate devices such as penile cuff and condom catheter [3]. Unfortunately, all methods imply sophisticated, sometimes expensive equipments which cannot be available in primary care structures.

The D index is more informative than Q_{max} , is stable over time in healthy subjects, improved in patients treated with TURP or receiving medical therapy [1].

Use of the proposed nomograms only requires basic devices: flow-meter if the voided volume is analyzed, or, slightly more sophisticated, flow-meter plus bladder scan if the filling volume is analyzed.

Concluding message

For the first time, nomograms only based on FF, thus needing few instrumental devices (flow meter \pm bladder scan) and thus usable by a general practitioner, are proposed for evaluation of BOO in BPE men. This new, cheap, method could make easier watchful waiting and follow-up of chemical or surgical treatment. Further studies will be devoted to large clinical applications.

References

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2. Valentini FA, Besson GR, Nelson PP, Zimmern PE. Clinically relevant modelling of urodynamics function: The VBN model. NAU 2014; 33(3): 361-66. doi 10.1002/nau.22409
3. Valentini FA, Nelson PP, Robain G. Non-invasive techniques in urodynamics : an update. AoU 2011 II (1) 10-16

Disclosures

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