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## Abstract Reproduction Form B-1

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Title (type in  
CAPITAL  
LETTERS)THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER AMONG  
FEMALES IN ASIA

**Aims of the Study :** The study was conducted to establish the prevalence of overactive bladder (OAB) among the female population in Asia. It also intended to describe OAB in terms of symptom presentation, the resulting degree of bother, and the rate at which help is sought to address the condition. The study also aimed to identify the factors related to the occurrence of OAB.

**Methods :** An epidemiological survey was performed in eleven countries in Asia. A questionnaire of 34 multiple-choice type queries on the presence and severity of the different symptoms of overactive bladder was formulated by a panel of experts. A demographic profile of the subjects was also included. The questionnaire was administered randomly to females consulting at the outpatient clinics for non-urolological and non-gynaecological diseases in 28 centers. Prevalence of OAB was computed based on the presence of at least one of the symptoms of frequency, urgency and urge incontinence. A chi-square test for independence to analyse the relationship between demographic data and the occurrence of OAB was done.

**Results :** A total of 5502 females were included in the study. The overall prevalence of OAB was 53.1%. The most common presenting symptom of OAB was urgency (65.4%) while frequency was present in 55.4%. Twenty one percent of the OAB population presented with incontinence, giving a prevalence of 11.4% for urge incontinence among Asian females. Majority (75.4%) were not significantly bothered by the condition. Only 21.1% sought help for their condition. Using the chi-square test for independence, older age, multiparity, a positive family history, residence in rural areas and the use of a sitting-type of commode were found to be associated with a greater occurrence of OAB.

**Conclusion :** The study has shown that the problem of overactive bladder among the females in Asia is significant and warrants closer attention. It has also highlighted the low treatment-seeking rate among those suffering from the condition. This is the first report on the epidemiology of overactive bladder among Asians.

1 - Y. Yong, S. Bo (China), M.F. Leung, T.F. Kwok (HK), H. Pathak, S. Nagasubramanyan, P.J. Urvashi (India), Rochani, R. Yuwono (Indonesia), J.Y. Hong, J.G. Lee, H.Y. Kwon (Korea), R.M. Sahabudin, C.S. Loh (Malaysia), M. Sheikh, K. Waheed, S. Asif, K.J. Noorani (Pakistan), E.R. Gatchalian, D.T. Bolong (Philippines), P. Lim (Singapore), A.C. Wang, C.H. Huang, H.S. Chiang (Taiwan), P. Bunyaratavej, D. Watanachote, K.R. Olarn, A. Tantiwong (Thailand)