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SURVEY OF URODYNAMIC EXAMINATIONS: RESULTS OF A MULTICENTER STUDY ON 915 PTS

Aims of study: To monitor the activities of urodynamic laboratories and assess the prevalence of low urinary tract symptoms and disturbance in patients who undergo urodynamic examination (UE).

Methods: From June 1999 to February 2000 data of 915 consecutive patients (Male 31.7%, female 68.3%, mean age 57.5±14.9 yrs, range 6-89) who underwent UE was collected using a standardized form. The data collected concerned personal identification data, referring physicians, date of appearance and type of urinary symptoms and other pelvic symptoms, preliminary examinations, UE performed, urodynamic findings, other test suggested.

Results: The pts were referred to UE by: urologist 76%, gynaecologist 13.1%, general practitioner 2.8%, neurologist 2.3%, physiatrician 2.3%, colorectal surgeon 1.2%, others 2.3%.

Prevalence of main symptoms

	Incontinence	Urgency/Frequency	Retention	Prolapse	Other	Neurogenic bladder
%	21	10	8	3	4	4

Prevalence of associated symptoms

	Prolapse and other symptom	Incontinence and other symptom	Retention and other symptom	Urgency/frequency and other symptoms	Other
%	15	12	9	8	6

Mean time between appearance of symptoms and first visit was 2.7 yrs

Correlated pelvic symptoms were present in 171 out of 915 (18%) - fecal incontinence 44pts, constipation 71pts, pelvic pain 18pts, sexual dysfunction 38pts -.

Preliminary evaluation: 864 pts (94%) underwent morfologic evaluation (xray, ultrasound), 431 (47%) complete a micturition diary, 689 (75%) had had a recent urine analysis.

UE has been performed in 874pts (96.1%). In 41 pts the UE hasn't been performed: in 23 for lack of preliminary exams, 12 refused the UE, 6 for other reasons.

Prevalence of urodynamic findings (not mutually exclusive)

	Detrusor Instability	Sphincter deficiency	Transmission defect	Obstruction	Other	Detrusor hypo/acontractility	Hypereflexia	Normal Function	Urgency	Compliance modification	Detrusor Hypo/Areflexia
N	223	188	152	140	124	97	90	82	75	70	43
Overall	17,4%	14,6%	12%	11%	9,7%	7,6%	7%	6,4%	5,8%	5,5%	3%
Male	18%	5%	0%	21%	10%	13%	15%	3%	3%	6%	6%
Female	17%	19%	18%	6%	10%	5%	3%	8%	7%	5%	2%

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Conclusions: This survey allowed us to estimate the prevalence of urinary disturbance in the population who underwent UE. Only 41 pts did not undergo UE which shows good patient selection. Apart from urologists and gynaecologists, few other specialists are in the habit of referring patients to UE. The time gap of 2.7 yrs between symptoms onset and medical consultation could be explained by the embarrassment felt by patients when discussing bladder dysfunction symptoms. We were disappointed that only 47% completed a micturition diary. The present survey is a result of a collaborative multicenter study that will help lead to a standardization in urodynamic evaluation and provide suggestions as ways of improving quality and organizing of the urodynamic laboratory.