

USER EVALUATION OF SPEEDICATH, THE READY TO USE CATHETER

Aims of Study:

- To measure user-satisfaction in the Netherlands, especially the subjects opinion about the 'ready to use' concept of this catheter.
- To determine whether and how a subject would prefer to give feed back of future experiences

Methods

Information was collected from subjects by use of an evaluation form issued by their continence nurse. It was completed by the subject and returned to Coloplast BV

Results

In the period October 2000 to March 2002 a total number of 434 subjects (M = 222, F = 210, 2 unknown) returned completed evaluation forms. The most typical reasons for catheterisation were (multiple answers): bladder residue (n = 157), spina bifida (n = 62) and spinal cord injury (n = 55). Catheterisation was performed by the subject him/herself in the majority of cases (n = 385, valid 88.9%). The average daily number of catheterisations was 4.18 (n = 427).

General opinion about SpeediCath was a favourable mean 7.71 (median 8) on a 10 point-scale (n = 424). This represents the outcome of the catheter's smoothness, flexibility, ease of insertion and removal and handling capacity. Of all subjects, a valid percentage of 94% approved of the catheter in terms of smoothness, 85% considered that the degree of flexibility met their needs, 86% perceived the insertion as (very) easy and removal, (very) easy, scored 92.9%.

Subjects were also asked to evaluate the device packaging.

A valid 95.6% had the experience that opening of the package was (very) easy. In terms of removal of the catheter from the package, 97.9% of subjects stated that this was (very) easy. The 'ready to use' concept was predominantly perceived as easy to very easy (n = 422, valid 99.6%).

In addition, subjects were asked whether they would like to give further feed back in the future, respondents stated that they would prefer to submit details of future experiences by means of telephone or e-mail (n = 322).

Conclusions

For many individuals who self catheterise the concept of SpeediCath 'ready to use' catheterisation, is a promising development to improve convenience and speed of C.I.C. (clean intermittent catheterisation). Subjective patient comments have included, 'finally a catheter that can be used in a discrete way outside the home environment'. This evaluation will be continued in order to obtain further user experiences from new subjects and an additional follow-up evaluation will also be initiated, to gather added feed back from those who have taken part. Both evaluations will contribute to give an improved overall impression about subject preferences and user-satisfaction.