

SURVEY ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND SATISFACTION WITH TREATMENT FOR URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

An online survey of patients with incontinence was conducted to understand reasons for poor treatment compliance.

Study design, materials and methods

A 25-question online survey was returned by 1,447 individuals during November, 2004 who are part of an online nationwide panel of adults who reported treatment for incontinence symptoms and have agreed to participate in survey research. The survey assessed patient characteristics, duration and severity of incontinence, treatments received, treatment compliance, and satisfaction with treatment. Information on demographic variables, including ethnicity, education attainment, household income and geographic region of residence, were obtained from an initial recruitment survey sent to potential panel members. Descriptive analyses were performed and stratified analyses by age, disease duration, and severity as measured by the reporter's effect of the incontinence on their life were conducted.

Results

The study sample was predominantly female (87%) and white (93%) with a mean age of 56 years. On average, patients urinated 10 (± 7) times per day and experienced 16 wetting accidents within the last week of survey. Seventy-seven percent had been suffering incontinence symptoms for at least 3 years and nearly half reported a moderate effect of incontinence on their lives. Discontinuation of treatment was reported by 45% of study subjects, among whom lack of treatment efficacy was the most commonly cited reason overall (41%). Less commonly cited reasons for treatment discontinuation included side effects (22%) and cost (19%). Lack of treatment efficacy was even more frequently reported among patients experiencing symptoms for 10 years or more and patients who experienced a moderate or severe effect of incontinence on their lives. In general, 24% to 34% of patients were not satisfied with the effect of medication on their symptoms, including frequency of urination during the day and the uncontrollable urge to urinate. Approximately 42% of patients experienced side effects from treatment. Overall, 52% reported being very or somewhat satisfied and 25% reported being neutral, somewhat or very dissatisfied with treatment for incontinence.

Interpretation of results

This online survey of self-selected incontinence patients indicated that almost half of those who have received treatment for incontinence had discontinued primarily due to lack of effect, side effects, and cost concerns.

Concluding message

Our findings from this sample suggest a substantial degree of unmet need from current therapy among those with incontinence.

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