

## HOW MUCH DOES OVERACTIVE BLADDER IMPACT INTEREST IN SEXUAL INTIMACY? BASELINE RESULTS FROM THE MATRIX STUDY

### Hypothesis / aims of study

The relationship between pelvic health (eg, incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse) and sexual dysfunction has been evaluated in previous studies. However, few studies have evaluated the impact of overactive bladder on patient interest in sexual activity. This interim baseline analysis explores the effects of overactive bladder on sexual intimacy in men and women in a large patient population.

### Study design, materials and methods

The Multicenter Assessment of Transdermal Therapy in Overactive Bladder with Oxybutynin (MATRIX) study is an open-label, prospective, randomized trial of adult patients who have been diagnosed with overactive bladder. Patients are treated with transdermal oxybutynin for 6 months and evaluated for safety and patient-reported outcomes. Domains within the validated King's Health Questionnaire (KHQ) and Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI-II) are used to assess the impact of OAB on patients' interest in sexual intimacy. The KHQ, designed to measure quality of life (QOL), comprises 7 domains and is scored on a scale from 0 (best) to 100 (worst). The BDI-II, designed to assess the intensity of depression, is a 21-item instrument that scores symptoms of depression on a scale from 0 (no or minimal depression) to 63 (most severe depression). A sufficiently large population has been enrolled to allow for the detection of potentially small differences in QOL, measured over time across specific subgroups (eg, age and gender groups).

### Results

To date, 2770 patients are enrolled in the MATRIX study; the mean age is 62.3 years and 87.1% of the population is female. At baseline, almost half (46.4%) of all patients report experiencing overactive bladder symptoms for at least 4 years while 12.1% of patients have experienced overactive bladder symptoms for 1 year or less. Fifty-seven percent of patients report that they have been treated for overactive bladder in the past.

Based on KHQ responses, 22.9% of patients indicate that bladder problems do affect their sex lives. In addition, 24.4% of participants indicate that bladder problems affect their relationships with their partners. Both men and women report experiencing a range of symptoms that may impair their usual enjoyment of sexual intimacy, including incontinence occurring during intercourse (22.3%), nocturnal urinary incontinence (31.9%), frequent urinary tract infections (37.1%), bladder pain (43.1%), and difficulty passing urine (34.9%).

Based on BDI-II responses, 52.1% of patients report changes in their interest in sex, with 25.6% being less interested, 9.8% being much less interested, and 16.7% experiencing a complete loss of interest in sexual intimacy. It appears that more women with overactive bladder report changes (a decrease) in their interest in sexual intimacy compared with men with overactive bladder ( $P=.0105$ ).

Among patients who report experiencing overactive bladder symptoms for 4 or more years, 19.1% have lost all interest in sex compared with 14.9% of patients who have had overactive bladder symptoms for 1 year or less. Among patients who have been previously treated for overactive bladder, 18.5% report complete loss of interest in sex compared with 14.5% of treatment-naive patients.

### Interpretation of results

These data suggest that patients with overactive bladder may experience decreased interest in sexual intimacy. The extent of this decrease may be related to gender, symptom duration, degree of OAB severity, and treatment history.

Concluding message

Patients with overactive bladder may experience a decline in sexual function and in their interest in sexual intimacy. This needs to be taken into consideration when caring for patients with overactive bladder.

**FUNDING:**                      **Watson**                      **Laboratories,**                      **Inc.**