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## OVERACTIVE BLADDER SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON WORK PRODUCTIVITY: RESULTS FROM THE EPIC STUDY

### Hypothesis / aims of study

A multinational study evaluated the prevalence and burden of overactive bladder (OAB) symptoms using the current International Continence Society (ICS) definition of OAB. This subanalysis evaluates the impact of OAB symptoms on work productivity.

### Study design, materials, and methods

This was a cross-sectional, population-based survey of adults (aged  $\geq 18$  y) in Sweden, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Computer-assisted telephone interviews were conducted with a geographically stratified random sample of the population (N=19,165). OAB and urinary incontinence (UI) were classified according to 2002 ICS definitions. Women who were pregnant and individuals who thought they may have a urinary tract infection were not eligible for the nested case-control study. Cases were individuals with OAB symptoms and controls were randomly selected from individuals without OAB symptoms within the cohort age and gender categories. The general health version of the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire was used to assess absenteeism (work hours missed), presenteeism (reduced effectiveness while working), and overall work productivity loss (absenteeism plus presenteeism) among individuals <65 years of age. Percentages of respondents reporting any impairment (scores  $\geq 0$ ) are reported for employed OAB cases and controls.

### Results

This analysis included 1027 OAB cases (67.4% women; mean age, 46.1 y) and 2418 controls (50.3% women; mean age, 43.4 y) who were <65 years old. Unemployment was significantly more prevalent among OAB cases compared to controls (**Table**). Employed OAB cases with and without UI reported work impairment more often than did controls (**Figure**). Men with UI had the highest proportion reporting impairment across all 3 work productivity categories (**Figure**).

### Interpretation of results

This is the first multinational, population-based study to evaluate the association between OAB symptoms and work productivity using a validated questionnaire and the current ICS definition of OAB. Working-age subjects with OAB were more likely than controls to be unemployed, regardless of incontinence status. Subjects with OAB symptoms who were employed were more likely to report absenteeism and presenteeism compared to controls.

### Concluding message

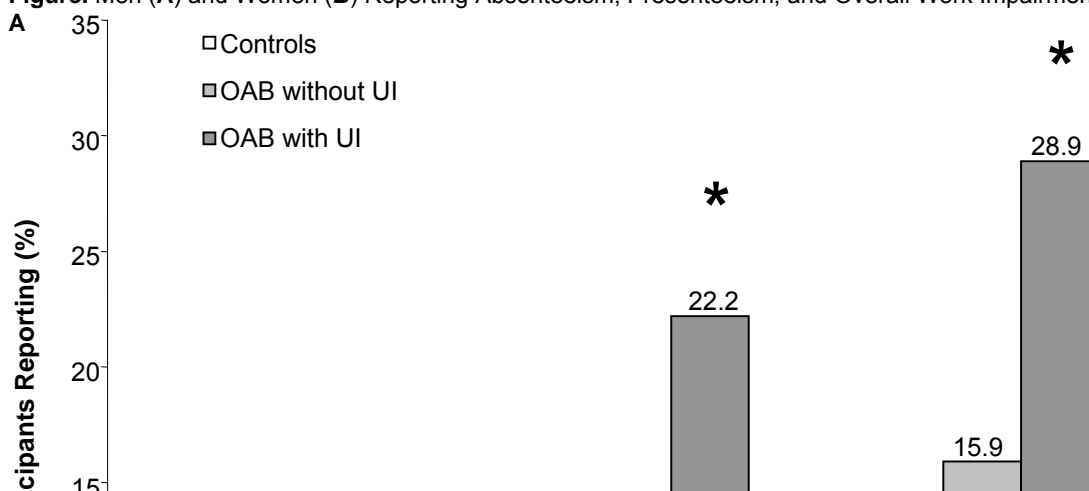
OAB symptoms among men and women were associated with reduced employment rates and decreased work productivity among those who are employed.

**Table. Employment Rates by Gender**

	Employed, %
<b>Men</b>	
Controls	76.9
OAB without UI	65.7*
OAB with UI	53.8*
<b>Women</b>	
Controls	64.0
OAB without UI	56.0*
OAB with UI	53.0*

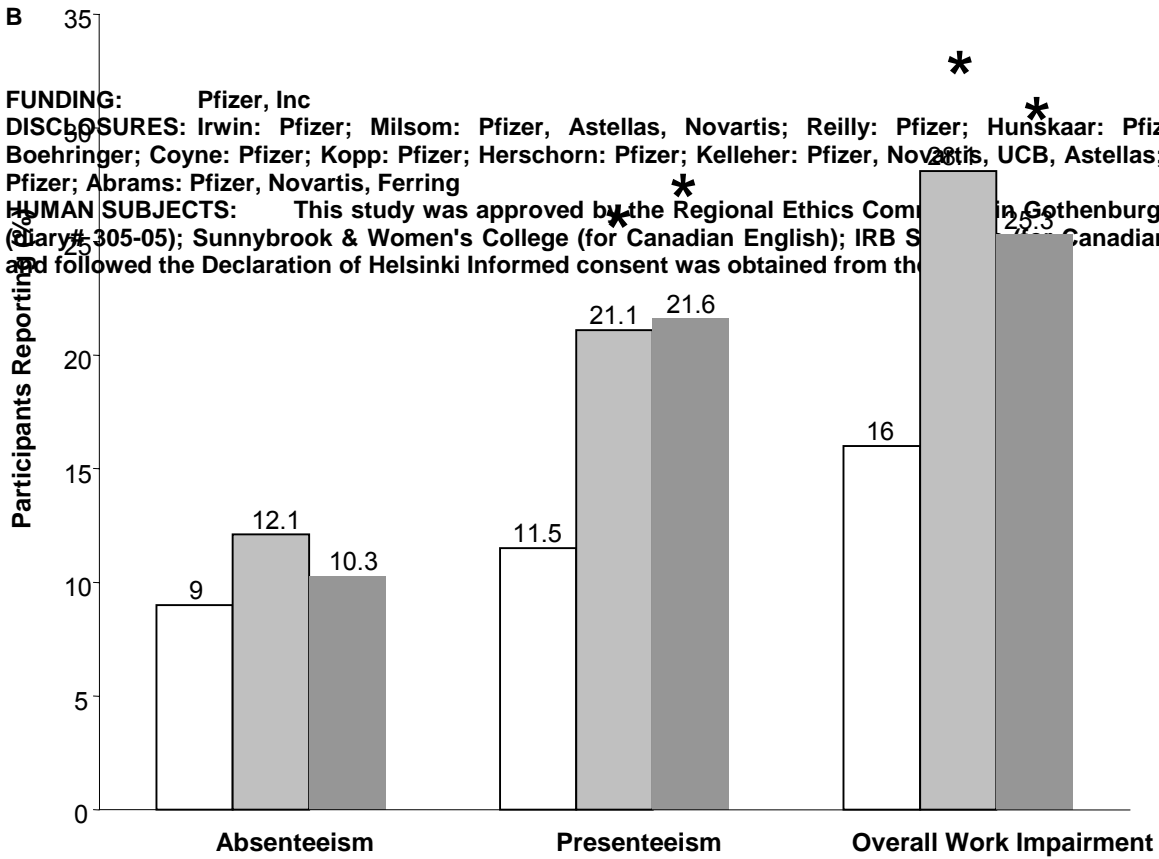
\* $P \leq 0.05$  for OAB with UI vs controls and OAB without UI vs. controls within sex.

**Figure. Men (A) and Women (B) Reporting Absenteeism, Presenteeism, and Overall Work Impairment**



B

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**HUMAN SUBJECTS:** This study was approved by the Regional Ethics Committee in Gothenburg, Sweden (Diary # 305-05); Sunnybrook & Women's College (for Canadian English); IRB S and followed the Declaration of Helsinki Informed consent was obtained from the



\* $P \leq 0.05$  for OAB with UI vs controls and OAB without UI vs controls.