

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OVERACTIVE BLADDER AND SEXUAL FUNCTION IN JAPANESE FEMALE PATIENTS

Hypothesis / aims of study

Overactive bladder (OAB) is a condition characterized by urinary urgency, with or without urge urinary incontinence, usually associated with daytime urinary frequency and nocturia. OAB have been shown to be associated with reduced health-related quality of life (HRQL). It has been reported that women with urinary incontinence have problem with sexual function, and patients with OAB often have greater HRQL impairment than those suffering from SUI. But there was no data about relationship between severity of OAB symptom and female sexual function in Japanese OAB patients.

The aim of this study is to analyze the relationship between severity of OAB symptom and sexual function in Japanese female OAB patients.

Study design, materials and methods

A total 189 OAB patients who presented to female urology clinic were enrolled in the study. All patients were subjected to a diagnostic work-up of medical history, the overactive bladder symptom score (OABSS: scoring the daytime urinary frequency, nighttime urinary frequency, urgency and urge urinary incontinence, validated in Japan), International Consultation of Incontinence Questionnaire of Short Form (ICIQ-SF), 3 days voiding chart, number of pat use per 24 h and Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI: self report measure of female sexual function, organized 6 domains, which includes sexual desire, subjective arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction and pain). All participants provided oral informed consent before entering the study.

All patients were classified into two groups according to OABSS: mild OAB group (OABSS equal to or less than 5, n=58) and severe OAB group (OABSS equal to or greater than 6, n=131).

. For statistical analysis, paired t-test was used and p value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Mean age, mean numbers of parity were 46.8±12.5 years, and 1.1±1.1, respectively. One hundred and forty-six (77.2%) had the sexual partner and forty-five (39.5%) was postmenopausal.

There were statistically significant differences between mild OAB group and severe OAB group in age (39.8±11.0 vs 49.6±12.0, respectively), ICIQ-SF total score (5.2±5.0 vs 10.3±5.1, respectively), and number of pat use per 24 h (0.8±1.0 vs 1.9±2.8, respectively) (p<0.05). And there were statistically significant differences between mild OAB group and severe OAB group in FSFI desire domain, arousal domain, lubrication domain, satisfaction domain, pain domain and total score (3.1±1.2 vs 2.3±1.0, 2.4±2.1 vs 1.4±1.7, 3.0±2.6 vs 1.7±2.3, 3.6±1.3 vs 3.0±1.1, 2.7±2.8 vs 1.4±2.3, 17.0±10.6 vs 11.3±9.3, respectively) (P<0.05), but not in orgasm domain (2.0±2.1 vs 1.6±2.0) (n.s.).

In 48 patients who completed anticholinergic therapy for 3 months, OABSS total score and ICIQ-SF total score were significantly improved from 6.8±2.4 to 3.3±2.2 and from 9.1±5.5 to 5.3±4.2, respectively (P<0.05). But there were no statistically significant changes in total FSFI score and each domains (n.s.).

Interpretation of results

This study demonstrates that severity of OAB symptom correlates with female sexual function except for the orgasm function.

Improvement of OAB and urinary incontinence symptoms with anticholinergics does not seem to affect the sexual function in Japanese female OAB patients.

Concluding message

At the best of our knowledge, this is the first report that shows of the relationship between severity of OAB symptom and sexual function in Japanese female OAB patients.

Specify source of funding or grant	none
Is this a clinical trial?	Yes
Is this study registered in a public clinical trials registry?	No
Is this a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT)?	No
What were the subjects in the study?	HUMAN
Was this study approved by an ethics committee?	Yes
Specify Name of Ethics Committee	women's clinic LUNA ethics committee
Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?	Yes
Was informed consent obtained from the patients?	Yes