

AN EVALUATION OF FECAL INCONTINENCE IN WOMEN WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis / aims of study

To investigate the occurrence of and risk factors for fecal and/or gas incontinence in female patients having urinary incontinence.

Study design, materials and methods

741 consecutive adult females patients presenting with urinary incontinence alone (group 1, n = 700) or urinary incontinence plus fecal and/or gas incontinence (group 2, n = 41) were enrolled into the study. As potential risk factors for fecal and/or gas incontinence in this population, the following variables were investigated: age, body mass index, type of urinary incontinence, childbirth history, menopausal symptoms, history of pelvic surgery, neurological disease, diabetes mellitus, tobacco use, constipation, cystocele, rectocele. Quality of life was assessed with the Urogenital Distress Inventory-Short Form (UDI-6) and the Incontinence Impact Questionnaire (IIQ-7).

Results

Of the women having urinary incontinence, 5% also had fecal and/or gas incontinence. Associated risk factors were history of difficult delivery, postmenopausal symptoms, history of pelvic surgery and constipation. Fecal and/or gas incontinence was also associated with a lower quality of life in terms of both questionnaires.

Interpretation of results

Fecal and/or gas incontinence has more negative effect to human life than urinary incontinence. In case of fecal and/or gas incontinence association with urinary incontinence, life quality gets deteriorated

Concluding message

Understanding of neurophysiologic bases of urination and defecation dysfunction will help us for the appropriate treatment of women with urinary and fecal and/or gas incontinence in addition to increase their quality of life.

Disclosures

Funding: none **Clinical Trial:** Yes **Public Registry:** No **RCT:** No **Subjects:** HUMAN **Ethics Committee:** Project authorization was given by the Ethics Committee of our faculty (Gazi University, School of Medicine) **Helsinki:** Yes **Informed Consent:** No