



Post-radical prostatectomy urinary incontinence: is there any discrepancy between medical reports and patients' perceptions?

Authors: Rafael Castilho Borges, Carlos Alberto Bezerra, Sidney Glina

ABSTRACT

Objective: Post-radical prostatectomy urinary incontinence negatively affects the quality of life of patients. Accurate identification of the problem by physicians is essential for adequate postoperative management. Underestimation of symptoms by physicians in non-surgically treated prostate cancer patients has been previously reported in literature. In this study, we assess whether there is, for urinary incontinence, any discrepancy between medical reports and perception of patients subjected to radical retropubic prostatectomy. **Materials and Methods:** We performed a retrospective analysis of medical records of 266 patients submitted to radical retropubic prostatectomy between 2005 and 2010. Sociodemographic variables were collected, as well as continence status over the course of treatment. Next, we contacted patients by phone to determine continence status at present and at the time of their last appointment, as well as to apply the ICIQ – SF questionnaire. Poisson regression model with robust variance was used to estimate the factors associated with discrepancy, using stepwise backward strategy. Level of significance was set at 5%. Software used was the Stata® (StataCorp, LC) version 11.0. **Results:** There is discrepancy between medical reports and patients' perceptions in 42.2% of cases. This discrepancy was found in 56% of elderly patients and 52% of men with low schooling, with statistical significance in these groups ($p=0.069$ and 0.0001 , respectively), whereas in multivariate regression analysis the discrepancy rate was significantly higher in black men (discrepancy rate of 52.6%) with low schooling ($p=0.004$ and 0.043 , respectively). **Conclusion:** There is discrepancy between medical reports and the perception of black men with low schooling in respect to post-radical prostatectomy urinary incontinence. There is a need for more thorough investigation of the condition in patients that fit this risk profile.