

How well Urinary Symptoms Questionnaires Work for People with Neurogenic Bladder who can Void or using Indwelling Catheters

Original Title: Reliability of Urinary Symptom Questionnaires for People with Neurogenic Bladder (USQNB) who Void or Use Indwelling Catheters



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Key points:

- This study looked at how well questionnaires (called the Urinary Symptom Questionnaires for people with Neurogenic Bladder (USQNBs)) represent the UTI symptoms that are experienced by people with neurogenic bladder.
- The authors found that both the USQNB-voider and the USQNB-indwelling versions are a good way to measure urinary symptoms that may indicate a urinary tract infection (UTI) in people with neurogenic bladder.
- This research suggests that healthcare professionals and people with neurogenic bladder can use the USQNBs to monitor their urinary symptoms.
- This research is important because it confirms that these tools can be useful for researchers, clinicians and people with neurogenic bladder.

Plain language summary:

This study examined how well the USQNBs work for individuals with neurogenic bladder. The USQNBs are tools to measure urinary symptoms among people with neurogenic bladder. The researchers have developed 3 different questionnaires: 1 for people who void (do not use a catheter), 1 for people who use indwelling catheters (reported here), and 1 for people who use intermittent catheters (which is reported in a different article).

The researchers wanted to find out if the USQNBs did a good job in assessing urinary symptoms that are due to UTI in these individuals.

To conduct this study, the researchers identified groups of participants who had a neurogenic bladder (due to spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, and other causes) and

grouped them according to how they managed their bladders (void or indwelling catheter or intermittent catheter). The researchers had people complete the USQNB appropriate to their bladder management method. The study showed that the USQNBs worked well in assessing urinary symptoms in people with neurogenic bladder who void or use indwelling catheters (the intermittent catheter version also worked well but is reported in a separate article).

In conclusion, this research suggests that the USQNBs are a good tools for assessing urinary symptoms indicative of UTI. The researchers are now using these tools in other research, to develop diagnostic guidelines for UTI in people with neurogenic bladder, and in an app so that people with neurogenic bladder can better monitor their symptoms and response to treatments.

Keywords and acronyms:

- **Neurogenic bladder:** A condition where the nerves that control the bladder are damaged or not working well. This can cause problems with controlling when and how much you urinate.
- **Reliability:** Something is trustworthy and gives consistent results. In this study, they wanted to see if the questions they asked always gave the same or similar answers.
- **Indwelling catheters:** A catheter with a tube that stays inside your body to help drain urine from the bladder.
- **Void:** To empty the bladder voluntarily without using a catheter.
- **USQNB:** Urinary Symptom Questionnaires for people with Neurogenic Bladder. It is a set of questions designed to learn about the experiences of individuals with neurogenic bladder and their urinary symptoms.

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You can find the different questionnaires at
[MedStarResearch.org/BladderRehab](https://www.MedStarResearch.org/BladderRehab).

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