

QUALITY OF LIFE IN WOMEN WITH PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE: ANY DIFFERENCE IF THEY HAVE LEVATOR ANI MUSCLE INJURY?

Hypothesis / aims of study

Pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is a very common problem in elderly women across different populations with impaired quality of life. Women with levator ani muscle (LAM) injury were about twice as likely to show significant pelvic organ prolapse.(1) This study aims at exploring any difference in quality of life in Chinese women who have symptomatic of POP with or without levator ani injury.

Study design, materials and methods

This is a cohort study included all Chinese women who presented to our urogynaecology clinic with symptoms of POP from 2012-2014. Basic demographic data and POP symptoms were obtained using a standard datasheet at the first consultation; physical examination was performed to assess for POP using POP-Q staging for every women. Quality of life was assessed using validated Chinese version of Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaires (PFIQ).(2) Levator ani muscle was assessed by 4D transperineal USG. Ethics approval was obtained from local institute (CRE-2011.594).

Results

During that period, 313 women with POP were assessed. Their mean age was 62.4 (SD: 9.6) year old. The median number of vaginal delivery was 3 (2-4). The mean Body Mass Index (BMI) was 25.4kg/m² (SD: 3.9). In all, 75.7% (237/313) of them were menopausal and 35.5% (111/313) of them were sexually active. There were 234 women with stage I/II and 79 women with stage III/IV POP. Among all women, 38.4% (124/313) of them had levator muscle injury (38 unilateral and 84 bilateral injury); 81 (34.6%) with stage I/II POP and 43 (54.4%) in Stage III/IV POP.

Result of PFDI and PFIQ were showed in Table 1 according to their staging.

Interpretation of results

In women who have symptomatic POP, there was no significant difference in PFDI and PFIQ scores in women with or without LAM injury. Subgroup analysis according to the POP-Q staging was performed. Again, there was no difference between women with and without levator ani muscle injury.

Concluding message

The quality of life in women with symptomatic POP was impaired but there was no difference between those with or without levator muscle injury.

Table 1. POPDI and POPIQ scores of women with different stage of POP with and without Levator ani injury.

	PFDI				PFIQ		
	With LAM injury	Without LAM injury	P value		With LAM injury	Without LAM injury	P value
Stage I/II				Stage I/II			
POPDI	74.2 (54.0)	68.7 (52.7)	0.46	POPIQ	51.9 (73.1)	40.5 (52.8)	0.17
UDI	62.8 (46.1)	54.6 (40.6)	0.16	UIQ	50.9 (67.9)	34.6 (50.5)	0.06
CRADI	63.8 (55.1)	53.0 (47.9)	0.12	CRAIQ	25.1 (56.2)	14.0 (32.0)	0.10
Stage III/IV				Stage III/IV			
POPDI	94.2 (65.1)	90.9 (70.2)	0.83	POPIQ	55.1 (71.9)	75.4 (86.7)	0.26
UDI	78.5 (65.0)	75.5 (58.3)	0.83	UIQ	45.3 (66.3)	72.4 (90.0)	0.13
CRADI	57.5 (53.8)	60.5 (63.7)	0.82	CRAIQ	14.1 (42.7)	30.3 (63.8)	0.18
Total				Total			
POPDI	83.1 (57.9)	75.0 (56.4)	0.22	POPIQ	54.4 (72.8)	48.4 (62.3)	0.45
UDI	69.9 (53.4)	60.0 (44.8)	0.08	UIQ	50.0 (67.6)	42.7 (62.1)	0.33
CRADI	63.0 (54.4)	55.7 (51.2)	0.24	CRAIQ	21.8 (52.6)	17.6 (40.8)	0.43

References

1. 1. Dietz HP, Simpson JM. Levator trauma is associated with pelvic organ prolapse. BJOG 2008; 115:979-984
2. 2. Chan SSC, Cheung RYK, Yiu AKW, Li JC, Lai BP, Choy KW, et al. Chinese validation of Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire (PFIQ). Int Urogynecol J 2011;22:1305-12

Disclosures

Funding: NONE **Clinical Trial:** No **Subjects:** HUMAN **Ethics Committee:** Joint Chinese University of Hong Kong - New Territories East Cluster Clinical Research Ethics Committee **Helsinki:** Yes **Informed Consent:** Yes