

Female urge Incontinence is Associated with Somatosensory Amplification, Health Anxiety and Depression

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Abstract

Purpose: Incontinence is a condition that can cause significant problems that can affect patients' quality of social, emotional, psychological and sexual life. The aim of this study was to evaluate the level of anxiety, health anxiety, depression, and somatosensory amplification in patients with urge incontinence. **Materials and Methods:** The study group consisted of 58 patients that met the inclusion criteria. The control group consisted of 67 volunteer participants that did not have physical or psychiatric illness and incontinence complaints. All participants filled out sociodemographic data form, Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), Somatosensory Amplification Scale (SSAS), and Health Anxiety Inventory (HAI). **Results:** The mean duration of incontinence in patients with urge incontinence was 16.55 ± 10.03 months. The mean age in urge incontinence group and the control group were 40.98 ± 9.58 and 39.1 ± 7.89 years, respectively. The mean values of SSAS, HAI, and BAI scores in the incontinence group were significantly higher than the control group ($p < 0.001$), but there was no significant difference between the groups in terms of BDI scores. The linear regression analysis indicated that HAI and BAI significantly affected SSAS ($p = 0.025$ and 0.019 , respectively). **Conclusions:** Anxiety, health anxiety and somatosensory amplification are more common in patients who report urge incontinence. For these reasons, we believe that psychiatric evaluation should be included in the diagnosis and treatment process of patients presenting with urgency and incontinence symptoms. **Keywords:** Incontinence, Somatosensory Amplification, Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Anxiety Inventory, Urgency.

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