

OP20

A PILOT STUDY OF ELECTRONIC QUESTIONNAIRES IN THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD (EQUIPP)

T. Gray, L. Wibmer, W. Li, G. Jones, S. Radley

Introduction

Pelvic floor dysfunction in the postnatal period is common, but often under-reported. In the UK there is currently no standardised assessment to identify those affected by pelvic floor symptoms postpartum. ePAQ-Pelvic Floor is an online, self-completed patient reported outcome measure (PROM) with good evidence of validity, reliability and functionality for assessing pelvic floor symptoms across 20 scored domains[1-3]. The aim of this pilot study was to evaluate the potential use of ePAQ-PF in the postnatal period, to enable women to self-assess their pelvic floor symptoms and prompt access to healthcare.

Methods

Following ethical approval, eight hundred consecutive women with term livebirths were invited by post to complete ePAQ-PF at 16-20 weeks postpartum. A single reminder was sent at four weeks to non-responders. Data on obstetric variables (including parity, mode of delivery, epidural and perineal trauma) was collected for the 800 participants. In addition to descriptive statistics, ANOVA, student T tests and Pearson correlation were used to compare domain scores with obstetric variables.

Results

In total, 126 women (16%) completed ePAQ-PF. Responders had a higher rate of instrumental delivery (21% vs. 12%) and a lower rate of caesarean section (25% vs. 31%). The average completion time was 21 minutes. Overall, 49% percent reported stress urinary incontinence, 76% reported overactive bladder symptoms, 23% reported prolapse, 29% reported anal incontinence, 31% reported body image concerns and 73% reported poor quality of sexual life. There was no meaningful statistically significant difference between the domain scores and the obstetric variables in this study.

Conclusions

Whilst further research is required, including qualitative studies of patient perceptions of electronic PROMs in this context and development of initiatives to improve response rates prior to larger studies; electronic PROMs show potential for identifying women with pelvic floor dysfunction postpartum and may represent an accessible and cost-effective approach.

References

1. Radley SC, Jones GL, Tanguy EA, Stevens VG, Nelson C, Mathers NJ. Computer interviewing in urogynaecology: concept, development and psychometric testing of an electronic pelvic floor assessment questionnaire in primary and secondary care. BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. 2006;113(2):231-8.
2. Jones GL, Radley SC, Lumb J, Farkas A. Responsiveness of the electronic personal assessment questionnaire-pelvic floor (ePAQ-PF). International Urogynecology Journal. 2009;20:557-64.3. Jones GL, Radley SC, Lumb J, Jha S. Electronic pelvic floor symptoms assessment: tests of data quality of ePAQ-PF. International Urogynecology Journal. 2008;19:1337-47.