Clinical judgment in the diagnosis and management of frequency and dysuria in general practice

T C O'DOHerty, R E W

Abstract

In a study of 40 women with the urethral syndrome and 40 women with uncomplicated urinary tract infection, none of the women with the urethral syndrome had an abnormal urine culture or dysuria, and none had an abnormally increased frequency of daytime urination. The diagnosis of the urethral syndrome was based on the presence of three or more symptoms of dysuria, urgency, frequency, and terminal urgency. The diagnosis of the uncomplicated urinary tract infection was based on the presence of an abnormal urine culture or an abnormal urine examination. The women with the urethral syndrome had an increased frequency of daytime urination, and the women with the uncomplicated urinary tract infection had an increased frequency of nighttime urination.

Results

Table 1 shows the results of the study. The women with the urethral syndrome had an increased frequency of daytime urination, and the women with the uncomplicated urinary tract infection had an increased frequency of nighttime urination.

Table 1. Comparison of the frequency of daytime and nighttime urination in women with the urethral syndrome and with uncomplicated urinary tract infection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Urethral Syndrome</th>
<th>Uncomplicated UTI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daytime urination</td>
<td>15/40 (38%)</td>
<td>10/40 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nighttime urination</td>
<td>5/40 (13%)</td>
<td>30/40 (75%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the urethral syndrome is a distinct clinical entity that can be distinguished from uncomplicated urinary tract infection. The women with the urethral syndrome had an increased frequency of daytime urination, and the women with the uncomplicated urinary tract infection had an increased frequency of nighttime urination. This finding suggests that the two conditions are distinct and that they are not related.

Conclusions

The findings of this study support the concept that the urethral syndrome is a distinct clinical entity that can be distinguished from uncomplicated urinary tract infection. The women with the urethral syndrome had an increased frequency of daytime urination, and the women with the uncomplicated urinary tract infection had an increased frequency of nighttime urination. This finding suggests that the two conditions are distinct and that they are not related.