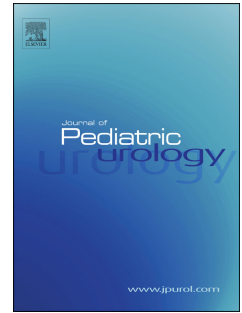


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Incontinence affects health-related quality of life in children and adolescents with spina bifida

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Summary

Purpose

Despite devoting many resources to managing urinary and fecal incontinence (UI and FI) in children with spina bifida (SB), it remains unclear whether either is associated with lower health-related quality of life (HRQOL). We sought to determine the impact of UI and FI on HRQOL in this population.

Materials and methods

Children with SB (8–17 years) living in the United States were surveyed online and in SB clinics (2013–15). We evaluated incontinence over the previous 4 weeks using a UI dry interval (< 4 hour, \geq 4 hours), FI clean interval (< 1 week, \geq 1 week), and self-reported amount of UI and FI (for each: a lot, medium, a little, none). HRQOL was assessed with QUALAS, a validated SB-specific instrument. Linear regression was used.

Results

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