

# Etiology, risk factors, and management overactive bladder : Review

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**Abstract**— The objective of this review article is to describe the etiology and risk factors for OAB, diagnosis and management options. Relevant publications were searched from three databases (PubMed, EMBASE and the Cochrane Library) without any limitation on time (up to December 2017). We used the following key words for the PubMed search: "Overactive bladder" AND "Etiology" AND "Risk factors" [MeSH] AND (humans [MeSH] AND English language. Presently, there are several alternatives for treatment with first-line treatments consisting of behavioral alteration and pelvic floor physical treatment, progressing to second-line OAB medications Pharmacotherapy for OAB has been mainly concentrated on blocking the postsynaptic muscarinic receptors on the detrusor muscle, to decrease involuntary detrusor contractions. Their use may be limited by efficacy, tolerability, and long-term compliance. And for those that are poorly receptive or intolerant to previous therapy, neuromodulation techniques. OAB is a complicated problem, however there are promising treatment options available. Medical professionals should perform detailed examinations of patients with OAB symptoms and develop individualized treatment plans that integrate appropriate behavioral and pharmacological treatments.

**Index Terms**— Overactive bladder, Overactive bladder review, Overactive bladder etiology, Overactive bladder risk factors, Overactive bladder management.



## INTRODUCTION

Overactive bladder (OAB) is a common condition [1] that is specified as "urinary urgency, usually accompanied by regularity and nocturia, with or without urge urinary incontinence" by the International Continence Society [2]. OAB affects > 38 million Americans and one in every three elderly adults [1]. One research study on OAB occurrence found that 36% of men and 43% of women aged 40 years and older reported OAB symptoms [3].

OAB has far-reaching effects for both physical and psychological wellness, with symptoms such as skin breakdown as a result of leakage, sleep disturbance, fall-related injuries, depression, long term hospital stays, admission to a nursing home, and reduced quality of life [4]. OAB is also associated with an increased risk of other negative health problems [6]. Patients with OAB have an average of 84% even more yearly visits to a physician and 21% more urinary tract infections (UTIs), which increases the cost and health care visits and even inclines them to various other health problems such as skin breakdown because of increased leakage. Individuals with OAB additionally have a higher danger of fall-related injuries and fractures, along with prolonged health center keeps and admission to an assisted living facility.

OAB is an embarrassing condition that disrupts not only social functioning however likewise a large range of activities of day-to-day living. People with OAB are most likely to restrict social trips, exercise, and involvement in get-togethers [5]. There are likewise repercussions with job performance, consisting of reduced productivity at work because of regular restroom journeys, wasted time at work because of associated diseases, medical professional visits and a hospital stay, and even loss of work because of the destructive result on task efficiency [7]. Each of these consequences of OAB has an inherent price to both the specific and the insurance company and boosts nationwide healthcare cost. As health care providers, we could lower the significant health care and financial burdens related to OAB by investing even more health care resources to find effective and safe OAB therapies.

The objective of this review article is to describe the etiology and risk factors for OAB, diagnosis and management options.

## METHODOLOGY

Relevant publications were searched from three databases (PubMed, EMBASE and the Cochrane Library) without any limitation on time (up to December 2017). We used the following key words for the PubMed search: "Overactive bladder" AND "Etiology" AND "Risk factors" [MeSH] AND (humans

[MeSH] AND English language. Additionally, we searched references list of included studies for more relevant articles that could be supportive to our study purpose.

## DISCUSSION

### Overactive bladder epidemiology:

The median prevalence of urinary incontinence in females has been reported as varying from 14% to 40.5% (23.5% using the ICS meaning). In males, the frequency of urinary incontinence has differed from 4.6% to 15%. In females, urge and combined urinary incontinence represented a median relative share of 51% of instances, whereas in males, the mixed overall was 92% [7], [8]. Around 33% of patients who had OAB had urinary system urge incontinence. The staying patients did not, grumbling just of urgency, typically with regularity and nocturia [7], [8]. Milsom and colleagues [9] reported on a study done by the Svenska Institute for Opinionsundersokningar/Gallup Network in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. This study utilized a telephone questionnaire involving a twostage screening treatment, which first identified people that had bladder control problems and after that defined the nature of the urinary problem. The first step specifically omitted people whose only problem was urinary system infection. Symptoms attributable to OAB were identified by favorable action to specific questions on frequency, urgency, and urge incontinence. Regularity triggered by OAB was arbitrarily defined as higher than eight micturitions in 24 hrs. For nocturia, the functioning meaning defined that patients needed to get up two or even more times a night to urinate. Respondents might have greater than one OAB symptom but were classified just once as having OAB. Currently, OAB is additional categorized into two groups: OAB wet and OAB dry [10].

Positive reactions in this study [9] that were suggestive only of stress incontinence, prostatic obstruction, or the incident of urinary system infection resulted in exclusion from additional examination. Participants that were 40 or even more years old and had OAB just or combined symptoms were consisted of. The interviewed population totaled 16,776 subjects. Roughly 19% of all participants reported current bladder signs, yet in general, 16.6% of complete respondents, 15.6% of males, and 17.4% of women reported symptoms suggestive of OAB.

### Risk factors:

OAB is a highly prevalent illness. Age is most likely the best-known danger factor for establishing OAB. Frequency boosts with age, rising to 30.9% in those older than 65 years [11]. In ladies, postmenopausal status has also been related to an increase in OAB symptoms. This association is thought to be related to lower estrogen levels after menopause, as estrogen has a crucial function in the modulation of reduced urinary tract function. Estrogen receptors have been found in the vagina, urethra, bladder, and pelvic floor musculature, and there is a possible duty for genital estrogen in the treatment of OAB symptoms [12]. An additional danger aspect for OAB is race. Coyne et alia revealed that African American and Hispanic men and women were more likely to have OAB [13]. The epidemiology of lower urinary system tract signs research study found African American and Hispanic race as forecast-

ers of OAB in males however did not find a higher danger of OAB in African American and Hispanic females [14]. Prolapse has been considered as a risk factor for OAB. Although females with pelvic organ prolapse have a greater occurrence of OAB symptoms, there is no consistent proof demonstrating a relationship between the compartment or phase of prolapse and the existence of OAB signs and symptoms. Researches have revealed that treatment of prolapse (whether with pessary or surgical treatment) leads to improvement of OAB symptoms [15]. It is unclear if this relationship is causal. Incontinence surgical treatment could additionally be a risk factor for OAB. The advancement of OAB is a recognized risk after midurethral sling surgical procedure with de novo OAB taking place between 15% and 29% of patients within 1-3 months postoperatively [16]. Finally, neurologic disease is recognized to impact lower urinary system function [17]. For men, comorbidities, including arthritis, clinical depression, heart disease, hypertension, mobility constraints, neurological problems, recurring UTI, benign prostatic hypertrophy, and prostatitis, are forecasters of OAB. For women, comorbidities including arthritis, depression, irritable digestive tract syndrome, neurological conditions, recurrent UTI, and sleep apnea are more probable to be related to OAB [13]. Lifestyle and behavioral factors contribute in OAB also. A body mass index (BMI) of > 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> is an additional risk factor for OAB symptoms [12]. Research studies have found smoking to be a risk factor for enhanced urgency, however this has not been consistent with other studies [12]. High caffeine consumption (> 400 mg/d) has likewise been associated with OAB [18]. There are additionally behaviors that could raise the chance of OAB. These include both poor and excessive fluid intake, caffeine, carbonated beverages, spicy food, artificial sweeteners, and alcohol [19]. Identifying modifiable threat elements earlier on could help in the therapy of OAB.

### Diagnosis:

Clinical assessment and diagnosis: Prior to making a diagnosis of OAB, the lower urinary tract conditions that may mimic the symptoms of OAB need to be excluded (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Lower urinary tract conditions that may present with overactive bladder (OAB) symptoms.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection/Inflammation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Recurrent urinary tract infection</li> <li>◦ Chronic prostatitis</li> <li>◦ Interstitial cystitis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bladder outlet obstruction                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Urethral stricture</li> <li>◦ Benign prostatic hyperplasia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bladder pathology                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Bladder cancer</li> <li>◦ Bladder calculi</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral/Iatrogenic                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Diuresis due to excessive fluid intake, impaired urine concentration, or medications</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The standard assessment of a patient with OAB symptoms includes a background, checkup, and relevant clinical examinations. On history, the presence, quality, amount, and level of both of reduced urinary tract symptoms informs the medical diagnosis and management.

Clinical investigations should, at the minimum, consist of urinalysis, postvoid residual pee quantity, and bladder journal. A straightforward 3-day invalidating diary, finished by the patient, laying out voiding frequency, timing, and liquid intake can help with quantifying frequency and nocturia. The identification of excessive or badly timed fluid intake can guide behavioral referrals.

#### Medical treatment:

The mainstay of therapy for OAB is medical treatment, often coupled with behavioral and nutritional alterations. Medication is taken into consideration second-line therapy for OAB [20]. The primary class of pharmaceutical representatives used to deal with OAB is a subtype of anticholinergics called antimuscarinics. Because muscarinic receptors are discovered throughout the body, the negative effects of these agents are not only usual yet likewise widespread [21]. One of the most frequently seen negative results as a result of antimuscarinic activity in other organ systems include completely dry mouth (salivary glands), dry eyes (cilia and iris), constipation (intestinal smooth muscle mass), heart palpitations (AV node), and cognitive disability (forebrain). Each of these body organ systems consists of varying levels of all 5 muscarinic receptor subtypes. More recent antimuscarinic agents have been created to target the bladder a lot more particularly by precisely focusing on M2 and M3 receptors, which are both found in the detrusor muscle of the bladder wall surface. Although M2 receptors are predominant, M3 receptor is believed to play the most active role in detrusor muscle hyperreflexia [22]. Nonetheless, these representatives have also shown negative results in the body systems highlighted above, because of the fact that the M3 receptor is not unique to the bladder. The M1 receptor's result on cognitive problems is believed to be because of its function in understanding and memory [21]. Cognitive impacts that have been reported with antimuscarinic agents consist of modifications in memory, obscured vision, somnolence, hallucinations, confusion, and delirium, all of which are more prevalent in the elderly population [23]. Unique factor to consider must be taken when prescribing anti-muscarinic drugs in this populace.

There are 6 antimuscarinic representatives readily available for the therapy of OAB around the world: oxybutynin, tolterodine, fesoterodine, trospium, darifenacin, and solifenacin (Table 2). No one agent has clearly been revealed to be a lot more efficient than another, but expanded release variations have revealed reduced side effects as compared to instant release versions due to a reduced fluctuation in serum concentration [24]. Prolonged launch OAB drugs consist of oxybutynin ER, tolterodine XL, fesoterodine ER, darifenacin ER, solifenacin, trospium ER, and the oxybutynin transdermal

patch. Trospium has a quaternary amine structure making it too large to cross the blood- brain barrier, hence having actually a reduced result on cognitive function side effects [22]. Tolerability and cost commonly determine which agent is picked for therapy [25].

**Table 2.** Overactive bladder medications[26].

Medication (generic)	brand	Dosage	Route	t <sub>1/2</sub> (hours)
Detrol (tolterodine tartrate)		2 mg or 4 mg bid vs daily	Oral	8
Ditropan (oxybutynin chloride)		5 mg, 10 mg, or 15 mg bid, tid, or daily	Oral	12-13
Oxytrol (oxybutynin)		3.9 mg/d patch twice weekly	Transdermal patch	7-8
Gelnique (oxybutynin)		3% three pumps (84 mg) daily and 10% one sachet (100 mg) daily	Transdermal gel	NA
Toviaz (fesoterodine)		4 mg or 8 mg daily	Oral	7-8
Enablex (darifenacin hydrobromide)		7.5 mg or 15 mg daily	Oral	12
Vesicare (solifenacin succinate)		5 mg or 10 mg daily	Oral	45-68
Sanctura (trospium chloride)		20 mg bid	Oral	18.3
Sanctura XR (trospium chloride)		60 mg daily	Oral	36
Myrbetriq (mirabegron)		25 mg or 50 mg daily	Oral	50

**Abbreviations:** bid, twice daily; d, day; NA, not available;  $t_{1/2}$ , half life; tid, three times daily; XR, extended release.

### **Lifestyle modifications:**

Lifestyle adjustment includes a range of behavioral modifications that can decrease and even remove OAB signs and symptoms. The majority of these alterations are based on expert opinion with limited clinical proof because of lack of tests [27]. However, the advantage of a healthier lifestyle and the fact that these interventions commonly have little to no risk of negative occasions prefer the continued use of behavioral alteration as an initial and continuous therapy for OAB. Importantly, the foundation to attaining a successful behavior modification is patients' education and investment in their very own health. Hence, it is essential to have a discussion with your patients, educate them concerning these prospective interventions, examine just what they assume are viable alternatives, and encourage them to start a modification [28].

A first option for leakage control for patients with OAB is the use of absorbent items to help control signs and symptoms. Researches have shown that in females with milder signs, disposable insert pads are liked, while in females with more serious leakage, disposable pull-ups are the most effective overall alternative [29]. Common lifestyle alterations include decreasing fluid intake, avoiding bladder irritants, limiting consumption of caffeine and other bladder irritants, preventing irregularity, optimizing overall health and wellness, and smoking cessation. Diet and fluid management is an usual behavioral intervention that patients could institute in the house separately or with the help of a health care provider or nutritionist. There is also some proof that weight loss in overweight women may minimize urinary incontinence signs and symptoms and advantage general health [27]. Providers need to enlighten patients on possible way of living changes such as weight-loss, smoking cessation, and liquid intake adjustments that can bring about a substantial influence in symptom control.

Diet and fluid management alternatives:

- Decrease fluid intake to 6 to eight glasses of water daily and avoid fluid consumption for the 2- 3 hours prior to bedtime to decrease urine production overnight;
- Reduce consumption of bladder irritants such as caffeine, carbonated beverages, spicy food, artificial sweeteners, and alcohol;
- Avoid constipation by initiating a digestive tract regimen to achieve soft stools every 1- 2 days, using fiber supplements, stool softeners, and/or laxatives and establishing a routine defecation schedule;
- Smoking cessation;
- Optimize overall health by boosted control of hypertension, diabetes, sleep apnea, and other chronic health conditions to decrease urine manufacturing and improve bladder neurological function.

### **CONCLUSION**

OAB is a prevalent problem that affects the lives of millions of adults around the world. It is essential for providers to assess for OAB symptoms, especially in patients with risk factors, including older age, African American or Hispanic race, smoking, neurologic problems, BMI > 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and recurring UTI. As our populace ages, the concern of OAB therapy and management will remain to increase. Presently, there are several alternatives for treatment with first-line treatments consisting of behavioral alteration and pelvic floor physical treatment, progressing to second-line OAB medications Pharmacotherapy for OAB has been mainly concentrated on blocking the postsynaptic muscarinic receptors on the detrusor muscle, to decrease involuntary detrusor contractions. Their use may be limited by efficacy, tolerability, and long-term compliance. And for those that are poorly receptive or intolerant to previous therapy, neuromodulation techniques. OAB is a complicated problem, however there are promising treatment options available. Medical professionals should perform detailed examinations of patients with OAB symptoms and develop individualized treatment plans that integrate appropriate behavioral and pharmacological treatments. This approach will ensure that each facet of this complex problem is addressed.

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