

Oral presentation

The impact of continence - reviewed fourteen years later

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from 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida
Belfast, UK. 24-27 June 2009

Published: 27 November 2009

Cerebrospinal Fluid Research 2009, **6**(Suppl 2):S37 doi:10.1186/1743-8454-6-S2-S37

This abstract is available from: <http://www.cerebrospinalfluidresearch.com/content/6/S2/S37>

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Background

In 1994, a qualitative study was conducted on the impact of surgically acquired continence in 17 young people with spina bifida. All had undergone the dual procedures of augmentation cystoplasty and insertion of artificial urinary sphincter.

In structured interviews, the study assessed changes in quality of life in a number of categories: ability to live independently of carers, ability to undertake paid work or study, ability to develop friendships, ability to enjoy sexual relationships, ability to enjoy wearing a greater variety of clothing.

In all categories a positive impact was demonstrated by the participants becoming continent of urine.

The present paper reviews what has happened to the urinary continence status of this series of patients over the 14 years since the original study.

Materials and methods

The review was conducted by examination of the patients' records.

Results

Of 17 participants: 15 are dry: two are respectively, one wet and one damp and neither wishes further surgery, six are dry from the original surgery. The other nine, participants have undergone between one and seven procedures to remain dry.

Conclusion

Surgically acquired continence is effective long term both with and without additional procedures.