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## Understanding Health Utilities in Women with Urinary Incontinence

Danielle Patterson

*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

*Et al.*

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## UNDERSTANDING HEALTH UTILITIES IN WOMEN WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE

Danielle Patterson MD MSc<sup>1</sup>, Michael Flynn, MD MHS<sup>1</sup>, Courtney Stachowski BS<sup>2</sup> Abraham Morse MD MBA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UMass Memorial Medical Center; <sup>2</sup>Brigham Research Institute; <sup>3</sup>Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

**CONTACT:** Danielle Patterson [danielle.patterson@umassmemorial.org](mailto:danielle.patterson@umassmemorial.org)

### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to compare the health utility of UI in women as derived from the EQ-5D with the gold standard, the Standard Gamble. The secondary aim of this study was to compare health utility values of affected patients to healthy controls.

**Materials and Methods:** Clinical diagnosis was categorized as normal, stress, mixed or urge urinary incontinence. Healthy controls were read a scenario for stress or mixed UI. All subjects completed the Sandvik Severity Index (SSI), EQ-5D, and Standard Gamble (SG) conversation.

**Results:** 50 healthy controls and 119 affected subjects were recruited. The mean utility value for incontinence varied based on method: EQ-5D (0.78 + 0.17) and SG (0.85 + 0.20). There was a significant difference between utility scores derived from SG and EQ-5D ( $p=0.0004$ ). This significant difference was maintained in the subset of women with SUI: EQ-5D (0.81 + 0.16), SG (0.87 + 0.18),  $p=0.028$ ; but not in women with MUI or UUI. When comparing healthy controls to women with SUI, there were significant differences in the utility values derived by SG (0.76 + 0.26 vs. 0.87 + 0.18,  $p=0.07$ ) but not by EQ-5D. When comparing healthy controls to women with MUI, there was also a significant difference in the utility derived by SG (0.92 + 0.10 vs. 0.75 + 0.21,  $p=0.01$ ) but not by EQ-5D. SSI scores moderately correlated with SG utility values and strongly correlated with EQ-5D utility values. Logistic regression analysis showed that utility values were unaffected by age and menopausal status.

**Conclusion:** This study suggests that using the EQ-5D to quantify the utility of UI may over-estimate the degree of bother when compared to SG assessment. This is important because the SG process more closely approximates the decision to undergo surgery. Relying on the EQ-5D to assess health utilities in women with UI may not be valid.