Author's response to reviews

Title: Correlation Between Psychological Stress Levels and the Severity of Overactive Bladder Symptoms

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editors of BMC Urology:

Enclosed is our manuscript entitled “Correlation between Psychological Stress Levels and the Severity of Overactive Bladder Symptoms.” The manuscript was reformatted in accordance to the styles of BMC Urology. Tables 1 and 2 are now included in the text.

The relationship between psychological stress and interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome (IC/BPS) has been well described. Even though there is some overlapping of symptoms between OAB (overactive bladder) and IC/BPS, there have been very few studies that specifically investigated the relationship between psychological stress and urinary symptoms in OAB patients who do not have pelvic pain. Here we examined the relationship between psychological stress levels and the severity of overactive bladder (OAB) symptoms.

Our results showed a positive correlation between psychological stress levels perceived by patients and the severity of urinary incontinence symptoms. The clinical implication of this finding is that when treating patients with OAB, a psychological component should be evaluated as possibly contributing to the nature and severity of the lower urinary tract symptoms. Psychological stress might be a potential modifiable risk factor for OAB. We hope publications like this will further catalyze future studies to investigate the impact of psychosocial factors on OAB symptoms and other LUTS.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

H. Henry Lai, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery (Urology)