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IN BRIEF

STONES

Sodium bicarbonate increases urinary citrate and pH

Calcium stone formers with hypocitraturia might consider sodium bicarbonate as an effective alternative to potassium citrate supplementation. A randomized double-blind crossover trial of 16 adult patients who took sodium bicarbonate and potassium citrate for 3 days each revealed a similar increase in urinary citrate excretion and urine pH between the two supplements. The researchers warn that patients with pure uric acid stones and high urate excretion might be less suited to sodium bicarbonate treatment.

Original article Pinheiro, V. B. *et al.* The effect of sodium bicarbonate upon urinary citrate excretion in calcium stone formers. *Urology* doi:10.1016/j.urol.2013.03.002

QUALITY OF LIFE

Patients with neurogenic bladder prefer compact catheters

Compact catheters are associated with better quality of life than standard catheters for patients with neurogenic bladder who perform intermittent self catheterization. 125 patients from 17 centres across Europe were recruited to a prospective, randomized, cross-over study of compact versus standard catheters, using each for a period of approximately 6 weeks. Quality-of-life score was 28% higher for the compact catheter ($P < 0.001$) and 63% of patients stated they preferred it over the standard catheter.

Original article Chartier-Kastler, E. *et al.* A prospective, randomized, cross-over, multicenter study comparing quality of life using compact vs. standard catheters for intermittent self catheterization. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2013.04.026

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

The Sexual Functioning Questionnaire and vulvodynia

41 women with vulvodynia and 43 asymptomatic controls took the Sexual Functioning Questionnaire (SFQ) and were evaluated by a physician in order to assess the validity of the SFQ in women with vulvar pain. Investigators found that vulvodynia was associated with similar factor loadings for six of the seven domains of the SFQ (desire, arousal–sensation, arousal–lubrication, orgasm, partner and pain). However, vulvar pain was found to affect the responses to questions about pain or penetration in the enjoyment domain, which might result in incorrect interpretations of the SFQ.

Original article Legocki, L. J. *et al.* Interpretation of the Sexual Functioning Questionnaire in the presence of vulvar pain. *J. Low. Genit. Tract Dis.* doi:10.1097/LGT.0b013e31826ca384

SURGERY

Surgical safety checklist for robotic procedures

A multidisciplinary team of 15 individuals (including theatre nurses, consultants and an anaesthetist) has developed a checklist for urological procedures performed with robotic assistance. Investigators used a risk assessment tool—Healthcare Failure Mode and Effects Analysis—to identify potential hazards, which were then rated according to severity and frequency. Decision tree analysis was used to identify a final total of 22 hazards (including patient positioning and port placement) that were incorporated into the checklist. Validation and implementation of the checklist is awaited.

Original article Ahmed, K. *et al.* Development and content validation of a surgical safety checklist for operating theatres that use robotic technology. *BJU Int.* doi:10.1111/bju.12010