

# Questionnaire for LUTS & OAB

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OAB is defined by the International Continence Society (ICS) as a complex of symptoms characterized by urinary urgency, with or without urge incontinence, usually with frequency and nocturia.

OAB greatly affects physical and social functioning, including work, sleep, sexual relationships and interpersonal relationships. OAB, especially in patients with urge incontinence, eventually has a negative impact on health-related quality of life (HRQL). Because of the symptom frequency, OAB patients usually reduce water (fluid) intake and limit daily activity to avoid the discomfort.

Even though OAB is diagnosed by symptoms only, its assessment is very important for patients and physicians, especially for evaluation of treatment effectiveness. Multi-item questionnaires have been introduced to evaluate the impact of OAB and treatment outcomes. For example, two different OAB symptoms scores (OABSS) were developed by Homma et al., and JG Blaivas et al.; the OAB questionnaire (OAB-q) and the King's Health Questionnaire (KHQ), respectively. The major concern for physicians who provide OAB treatment is the lack of a widely accepted questionnaire for OAB assessment. This makes communication between researchers difficult.

Questionnaires used for assessment of OAB and lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are as follows:

## **OAB symptom score (OABSS), developed by Y. Homma (2006)**

This is a single symptom score that employs a self-report questionnaire to quantify OAB symptoms. The authors selected four symptoms -- daytime frequency, nighttime frequency, urgency, and urgency incontinence for the questionnaire. The overall score is the simple sum of the four symptom scores.

## **OAB Symptoms Scores (OABSS) developed by JG Blaivas (2007)**

The OAB symptom score (OABSS) was published in *The Journal of Urology* at 2007, a few months after publication of Homma's OABSS. Blaivas also used the acronym OABSS, but this assessment is entirely different. The authors mentioned that although there are many validated questionnaires for evaluation of lower urinary tract symptoms, there are no validated OAB symptom scores that quantify all aspects of OAB and none that include a graded response for urgency. The Blaivas OABSS quantifies all aspects of OAB and includes a graded response for urgency.

## **International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS)**

The International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS), which is identical to the AUA Symptom Score (AUASS), is recommended as the symptom scoring instrument to be used for the baseline assessment of symptom severity in men presenting with LUTS. The