### Bladder, Bowel, & Brain What is the connection?

Charmaine Martin, RN (EC) Adult

### Slide 2

### Objectives

- Outline the prevalence of urinary and fecal incontinence among stroke patients
- Review anatomy / physiology of voiding
   Describe the types of urinary incontinence
- Outline assessment and treatments to urinary incontinence management
- Review the anatomy/physiology of defecation
- Outline the types of fecal incontinence
- Outline assessment and management strategies to fecal incontinence

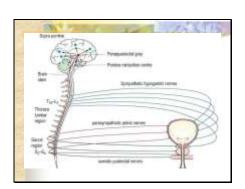
### Slide 3

### Urinary Incontinence

- Approximately 50% of stroke patients have incontinence during their acute admission.
- Decreases to 20% by 6 months post-stroke.
- 1 in 4 women experience UI
- 1 in 10 men experience UI




### Slide 5

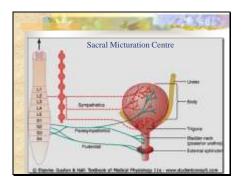


### Slide 6

Brain & Spine Affects on Bladder

Facilitatory: pons & hypothalamus; parasympathetic pelvic nerves; somatic pudendal nerve

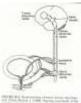
Inhibitory: cerebral cortex (frontal lobe) & midbrain; sympathetic hypogastric nerves



### Slide 8

### Physiology of Voiding - Storage of Urine

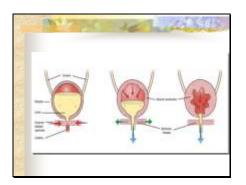
- Receptors in detrusor muscles sent message via spine reflex arc through pons / basal ganglia to frontal lobes.
- Message returns to the detrusor muscle to relax
   Internal and external sphincters contract



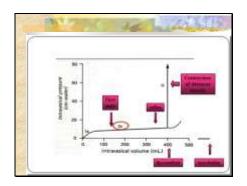
### Slide 9

### Physiology of Voiding **Emptying Phase**

- Message from pons / cerebral cortex to proceed with micturation.
- Bladder neck and external sphincters relax
- Detrusor muscle contracts causing a rise in intravesical pressure and triggers voiding

### Slide 11



### Slide 12

### Risk Factors Associated with UI

- Age : decreased bladder capacity
  - : residual urine
  - : sensory awareness decreased
- : detrusor instability

  Diabetes: diabetic neuropathy
  - : polyuria
  - : Increased risk of UTI
- Severity and location of Stroke
   Prior Urological dysfunction and other disabling diseases

# Slide 13 Types of Incontinence Urge Incontinence Retention with or without overflow incontinence Functional Incontinence Stress Incontinence Mixed Incontinence Loss of urine with a strong unstoppable

urge to urinate

during the day and night
Referred to as overactive bladder
Occurs in post stroke 37% (Gelber)

Usually associated with frequent urination

### Slide 15

### Urge Incontinence Pathophysiology: Detrusor instability Detrusor hyperreflexia Brain, spine, peripheral nerve damage UTI Medications-eg diuretics Bladder Disorders

### Overflow with Urinary Retention

- Periodic or continuous dribbling of urine
- Usually associated with symptoms of slow stream and difficulty urinating
- Can occur post stroke 21% (Gelber).

### Slide 17

### **Overflow Incontinence due to** Retention

Pathophysiology:

- Outlet Obstruction
- Under active detrusor muscle
- Injury to brain (pons / frontal lobe), spine or peripheral nerves.
- Contributing Factors
- BPH
- Urethral Strictures
- Peripheral Neuropathy –
  diabetes
- Neurologic disease UMN; LMN; Peripheral
- Anticholinergic /
  antispasmodic meds

### Slide 18

### **Stress Incontinence**

- Loss of urine with a sudden increase in intra-abdominal pressure (i.e. Cough, sneeze, exercise)
- Most common in women
- Can occur in men after prostrate surgery
- Should be aware if patient had this condition prior to stroke for treatment planning.


### **Stress Incontinence**

Pathophysiology

- Sphincter incompetence
- Urethral Instability
- Contributing Factors

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- Pelvic prolapse after childbirth
- Caffeine
- Decreased estrogen -postmenopausal
- Sphincter weakness or damage -prostatectomy

### Slide 20

### **Functional Incontinence**

■ Urine Leakage associated with an inability to toilet appropriately because of cognitive or physical impairments, psychological factors, or environmental barriers

### Slide 21

### **Functional Incontinence**

Pathophysiology

- Normal bladder and
- urethral function
- Contributing Factors
- PhysicalCognitive
- Environmental
- Psychological
- Language barrier
- Physical restraints
- Hospital EnvironmentFatigue


### **Nursing History for UI**

Characteristics of incontinence

- Onset and duration
- Frequency and time of day
- Precipitating factors ( i.e. sneezing / coughing)
- Associated urgency
- Type of urinary flow
- Leakage Use of protective pads/ briefs

### Slide 23

### History

- Toileting Patterns frequency during the day and night
- Awareness of a full bladder
- Ability to delay voiding
- Sensation of incomplete bladder emptying
- Obstructive symptoms
- UTI symptoms

### Slide 24

### History

Genitourinary History

- Childbirths, surgery, prolapsed organs
- recurrent UTI
- Previous incontinence Hx & tx

Relevant Medical Hx

 Diabetes, Depression, Acute Illnesses, Renal disease, CHF, Previous strokes, Parkinsons, and/or dementia, cancer (gyne/CNS)

		-

### History

- Medications Diuretics, sedatives, hypnotics, anticholinergics, amitriptyline, opioids
- Prior caffeine and alcohol drinking patterns
- Client's / caregivers perceptions
- Environmental factors

### Slide 26

### Physical Examination

- General Neurological Status
- Cognition and Affect
- Mobility manual dexterity, gait and balance
- Language abilities

### Slide 27

### **Physical Examination**

Abdominal Examination

- Visual Inspection asymmetry, scars, mass
- Palpation / Percussion of bladder
- Sensory Assessment depends on type of stroke
- Assess for suprapubic tenderness

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### **Physical Examination**

Genital / Rectal Examination

- Assess for bruising, bleeding, swelling, skin breakdown / condition, organ prolapse and discharge.
- Anal sphincter tone and sensation, fecal impaction

### Slide 29

### Diagnostic Tests of UI

- Urinalysis
- Urine culture
- Post void residuals (> 150 mls demonstrates inadequate voiding) – done with bladder scanner – 3 post void scans or in/out catheters (gold standard)
- Urinary diary –3 days pre-implementation
- Urodynamics, cystocopy, cystometry

### Slide 30

### **Treatment of UI**

- Promoting adequate fluid intake primarily during the day time – limit after supper
- Limit or eliminate caffeine intake
- Treat any symptomatic UTI
- Assess medications contributing to UI adjust timing of diuretics; review analgesics and sleeping medications

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### Treatment of UI

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- Avoid foley In / out catheters preferred
- Early Mobilization / toileting use of adaptive clothing
- Proper positioning
- Prevention of constipation
- Language impairments communication system

### Slide 32

### Treatment of UI

### <u>Urge Incontinence</u>

- Scheduled / Timed Voiding voiding at consistent times - keep clients dry by toileting at regular intervals but not best long-term solution for cognitively intact people
- Bladder retraining a bladder pattern is determined for 3 days and the client learns to extend the times and inhibit urge to void

### Slide 33

### Treatment of UI

### **Urge Incontinence**

- Prompted Voiding (RNAO Guidelines)
  - Monitoring
  - Prompting
  - Praising


### Urge Incontinence

- Medications: Anticholinergic medications eg. Ditropan; detrol – decrease the detrusor contractions, thus increasing bladder capacity
- Biofeedback
- Physical therapy functional ability; pelvic floor muscles

### Slide 35

### Behavioural Strategies

Bladder retraining – Mind / Body:
 Increase the time between voiding and the patient's ability to suppress the bladder contractions by education on urge suppression techniques

\*kegel exercises\*

### Slide 36

### Urinary Retention after Stroke

- Deficient detrusor muscle contraction strength - primary cause of urinary retention in stroke patients.
- Smooth muscles of the bladder do not contract.


### **Treatment of UI**

### <u>Urinary Retention with Overflow</u>

- PVR > 150mls

SECTION.

- Frequency of in/out caths based on volumes keep volumes under 500mls
- Sterile technique only on immuno-compromised patients otherwise teach patient clean technique
- Cholinergics: bethanecol chloride stimulates contraction of detrusor muscle

### Slide 38

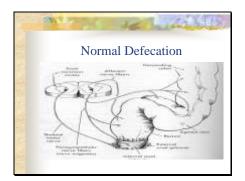
### Fecal Incontinence

- Fecal incontinence affects 30% in first 7-10days, 11% in 3 months, and 15% in 3 years.
- Continued fecal incontinence after 3months signals a poor prognosis.
- Stroke patients prone to constipation for physiological and clinical reasons.
  - Delayed colonic transit time
  - Impaired mobility, dehydration, polypharmacy, dietary factors, impaired cognition

### Slide 39

### Fecal Incontinence after stroke

- Fecal Incontinence:
  - Constipation and fecal overflow ( more common)
  - Neurogenic impairment spinal injury

### Slide 41

### History

- Former bowel habits frequency, habits, time of day, prior use of laxatives, enemas
- Past Hx GI and colon disease ( GERDS, constipation, diverticuli, diarrhea, celiac, hemorrhoids, rectal prolapse) – tx / Sx; Neurological Diseases; Diabetes
- Prior Medications

### Slide 42

### Physical Examination

- Neurological exam
- Cognitive / Affect
- Physical ability
- Language ability
- Diet and Appetite Hydration 2 2.5liters (unless restricted).
- Dysphagia


### **Physical Examination**

- Visual inspection of abdomen
- Auscultate for bowel sounds
- Palpate for masses
- Assess for sensation in perineal region
- Assess rectum voluntary control of sphincter and rectal tone
- Assess rectum for fecal load

### Slide 44

### Tx of Fecal Incontinence

Constipation Guidelines ( RNAO)

- Cleanse bowel
- Regular schedule
- Increase fluid intake
- Increase fiber intake
- Increase exercise
- Privacy
- Adaptive clothing /communication system

### Slide 45

### Tx of Incontinence

- Position in upright sitting positionBowel protocol and suppositories to assist
- Some medications may make constipation worse
- Patients with Frontal strokes usually need regular routines due to lack of frontal cortical input


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