

# Interpreting the Voiding Diary of Patients with Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms

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## INTRODUCTION

Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are subjective complaints. Patients usually have both storage and voiding symptoms and recall may be inaccurate. In order to realize the true voiding condition during daily life, a voiding diary that records daily water intake, voiding frequency, the voided volume of each void, the occurrence of urgency and the occurrence of urgency urinary incontinence (UUI) is an important and objective tool that can be used to assess LUTS in patients seeking the diagnosis and treatment of their bladder or voiding condition. However, a good voiding diary needs careful instruction by the physician or study nurse so that the patient records accurately. A voiding diary covering three days is considered necessary to measure these conditions in a way that truly reflect daily life [1].

The important parameters recorded in a voiding diary should include: (1) urinary frequency during the day and night with all voids recorded, (2) functional bladder capacity, the largest volume recorded in the voiding diary, day or night, (3) most frequently observed bladder volume, which may reflect the usual voided volume or the most frequent bladder sensation with respect to voiding desire, (4) urgency or UUI episodes in which the urgency discomfort sensation that the patient feels usually cannot be deferred, (5) the volume of water drunk, (6) nocturnal urine output and daily output, with the nocturnal urine output consisting of all voids after sleep and including the early morning void [2] and (7) associated bladder pain episodes where there is any discomfort associated with bladder filling or voiding.

The followings are ten common LUTS complaints and their possible interpretation based on the recorded voiding diary. The suggested management rationale and treatment modalities are also included for each case presentation to provide the reader with a reference point. Only one day voiding diary is presented in this article because of page limitations.

## CASE 1: FREQUENCY DUE TO POLYDIPSIA

### Case presentation

A 65 year-old man had diabetes mellitus (DM) and had been under oral hypoglycemic treatment for 3 years. His father had history of chronic renal failure and bladder cancer. The patient had complained of frequency and occasional urgency for 1 year, nocturia three times per night, no UUI and no dysuria. He had been treated with detrusitol

**Table 1.** Frequency Due to Polydipsia

請記錄您從上午 06:00 到隔天上午 05:59 的排尿情況，由上到下依序填寫。				
時間	尿急(√)	尿失禁(√)	排尿(√)	排尿量(mL)
06:05	√		√	500
08:55			√	210
10:25			√	400
12:05	√		√	500
13:42			√	410
15:03	√		√	480
16:30	√		√	500
17:41	√		√	350
19:38			√	250
21:40	√		√	560
22:11			√	150
00:15	√		√	570
03:12	√		√	600

for 2 weeks but without success (Table 1).

### Interpretation and management

Increased voiding frequency is likely to be due to excessive fluid intake because he is afraid of renal failure or bladder cancer. The voiding diary shows an adequate voided volume, no nocturia, and urgency only occurs at the bladder capacity. Restricting fluid intake is the best way to manage his frequent urination. The recorded intake is important when recognizing the cause of frequency.

## CASE 2: FREQUENCY AND NOCTURIA DUE TO OVERACTIVE BLADDER

### Case presentation

A 37 year-old housewife, who denied DM or hypertension, had a history involving an abdominal hysterectomy due to myoma uteri at age 32 and anti-incontinence surgery for stress urinary incontinence (SUI) 2 years ago. She complained of frequency nocturia that was associated with urgency and UUI for 1 year; there was no dysuria and no SUI. The maximum flow rate (Qmax) was 36 mL/s, the voided volume was 230 mL, and the post-void residual (PVR) was 35 mL (Table 2).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary shows increased voiding frequency during both daytime and night time with a small voided volume (functional bladder capacity). The presence of urgency indicates overactive bladder (OAB) and the presence of UUI indicates detrusor overactivity (DO). However,

**Table 2.** Frequency and Nocturia Due to Overactive Bladder (OAB)

請記錄您從上午 06:00 到隔天上午 05:59 的排尿情況，由上到下依序填寫。				
時間	尿急(√)	尿失禁(√)	排尿(√)	排尿量(mL)
06:24			√	160
06:45			√	100
08:05	√	√	√	250
09:50	√	√	√	300
10:37			√	170
12:10			√	100
12:52	√	√	√	200
13:22	√		√	200
15:30			√	100
17:15	√		√	230
19:16	√		√	200
21:23	√		√	220
22:30	√		√	290
04:22	√		√	450

no nocturnal polyuria was noted in her voiding diary. A high Qmax almost always indicates no bladder outlet obstruction (BOO), but not absolutely. Restricting fluid intake is a life style modification that helps patients with OAB and DO. Antimuscarinics are also helpful for OAB. A detailed urological examination that will be able to exclude possible BOO is important because anti-incontinence surgery may induce iatrogenic BOO.

## CASE 3: FREQUENCY DUE TO ANXIETY WITHOUT DECREASED BLADDER CAPACITY

### Case presentation

A 47 year-old woman denied DM, hypertension, or previous pelvic surgery. She was a laborer at a market in the morning hours. She had complained of frequency for 6 months, nocturia once per night; however, there was no urgency and no dysuria. The Qmax was 24 mL/s, the voided volume was 480 mL and PVR was 10 mL. She had been treated with detrusitol for 2 weeks but without success (Table 3).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary revealed increased frequency and a small functional bladder capacity that occurred only in the morning. There was no urgency and no UII. A normal voided volume was found for the afternoon hours, possibly after adequate hydration. There is also no nocturnal polyuria. Anxiety during the working hours is likely to be the cause of her increased daytime frequency and an anti-anxiety agent might be helpful to relieve any anxiety. Bladder retraining during the daytime by education may also be helpful. Antimuscarinics play no role in the treatment of this frequency, which is psychological in origin.

## CASE 4: NOCTURIA DUE TO INSOMNIA

### Case presentation

A 45 year-old man denied systemic medical disease or previous surgery. He had nocturia 4-5 times each night, but there was no daytime frequency, no urgency, no UII and no dysuria ever noted. He had been treated with imipramine for 2 weeks but without success. (Table 4)

**Table 3.** Frequency Due to Anxiety without Decreased Bladder Capacity

請記錄您從上午 06:00 到隔天上午 05:59 的排尿情況，由上到下依序填寫。				
時間	尿急(√)	尿失禁(√)	排尿(√)	排尿量(mL)
10:00			√	130
10:45			√	230
11:15			√	210
12:05			√	260
13:15			√	190
14:30			√	420
16:10			√	490
17:50			√	70
21:15			√	190
23:05			√	420
00:05			√	500
01:30			√	450
06:05			√	120

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary reveals normal frequency and a normal voided volume during daytime. There is no urgency and no UII. However, there was increased nocturnal frequency and at night time the voided volume was noted to be small. No nocturnal polyuria based on the calculated nocturnal voided volume was found. The nocturia is likely to be caused by a sleep disorder. Restricting the patient's fluid intake before bedtime might be helpful because the nocturnal volume is over 500 mL. Hypnotics before bed time to treat his insomnia might also be prescribed and improve the nocturia.

## CASE 5: NOCTURNAL POLYURIA WITHOUT OVERACTIVE BLADDER

### Case presentation

A 74 year-old man had mild DM and had been under oral hypoglycemic treatment for 3 years. He had complained of nocturia without daytime frequency for 3 year; there was no urgency, no dysuria and no UII noted. He had a history of transurethral resection for an enlarged prostate (TURP) 5 years ago due to LUTS and his noturia had been treated with detrusitol at bed time for 2 weeks but without success (Table 5).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary reveals a normal daytime frequency and a normal voided volume during the night. There was no urgency and no UII. However, an increased nocturnal frequency and an increased total nocturnal voided volume were obvious. The nocturnal voided volume was over 33% of the total daily urine output. Nocturnal polyuria is likely to be the cause of his nocturia [3]. Water restriction is necessary before bed time. Desmopressin (DDAVP) might be added before bedtime to increase the serum vasopressin concentration and reduce the nocturnal polyuria [4].

## CASE 6: NOCTURNAL POLYURIA AND OVERACTIVE BLADDER

### Case presentation

Table 4. Nocturia Due to Insomnia

排 尿 記 録 單														
姓名：郭 XX														
日期(第一天)：2月2日					日期(第二天)：2月3日					日期(第三天)：2月4日				
時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿
7-8	220	400			7-8	200	300			7-8	150	300		
8-9					8-9	100				8-9	200			
9-10	300				9-10					9-10		300		
10-11					10-11		300			10-11				
11-12		500			11-12	350				11-12	250			
12-1	400				12-1					12-1				
1-2					1-2	200	500			1-2	350	250		
2-3	350	500			2-3					2-3		300		
3-4					3-4					3-4	500			
4-5					4-5	350				4-5				
5-6	250	400			5-6					5-6		250		
6-7					6-7		450			6-7	200			
7-8					7-8					7-8				
8-9		250			8-9	400				8-9	100			
9-10	300				9-10		200			9-10	300	100		
10-11					10-11					10-11				
11-12					11-12					11-12				
睡眠 期間	200				睡眠 期間	150				睡眠 期間	200			
	150					80					80			
	110					130					120			
	80					120					100			
	90					50								

Table 5. Nocturnal Polyuria without Overactive Bladder (OAB)

排 尿 記 録 單														
姓名：施 XX														
日期(第一天)：8月29日					日期(第二天)：8月30日					日期(第三天)：8月31日				
時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿
7-8		300			7-8		300			7-8		300		
8-9		300			8-9	100	300			8-9		300		
9-10					9-10		300			9-10				
10-11		300			10-11					10-11				
11-12	100	300			11-12		100			11-12	200			
12-1		300			12-1		300			12-1		500		
1-2					1-2	100				1-2	100			
2-3	200				2-3					2-3				
3-4		300			3-4					3-4				
4-5					4-5					4-5				
5-6					5-6					5-6		300		
6-7	200	300			6-7		300			6-7	100			
7-8					7-8	200	100			7-8				
8-9	100				8-9					8-9	100	300		
9-10					9-10					9-10				
10-11					10-11					10-11				
11-12					11-12					11-12				
睡眠 期間	700	4 次			睡眠 期間	500	2 次			睡眠 期間	200	3 次		
	600					400					900			
	500										350			
	150													

## Review

A 67 year-old man had DM, gout, and hyperlipidemia and had been under regular treatment for more than 5 years. He had complained of daytime frequency for more than one year, nocturia up to 3 times per night with urgency and no UUI; he also complained of mild dysuria and a slow stream. The total prostate volume (TPV) was 35 mL, the transition zone index (TZI) was 0.2, the Qmax was 13 mL/s, the voided volume was 230 mL, and the PVR was 10 mL. He had been treated with doxazosin for 3 months but without success (Table 6).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary revealed increased daytime and night time frequency with a small functional bladder capacity in daytime. The presence of urgency, which indicates an OAB, can be found in the diary. The nocturnal voided volume is also greater than 33% of the daily total urine volume, indicating that there was nocturnal polyuria. Both OAB and nocturnal polyuria are present in this patient. The treatment strategy should include adding antimuscarinics and DDAVP to his treatment regimen. Restricting water intake before sleep is also necessary and possible BOO should be investigated in this patient by a pressure flow study.

### CASE 7: INCREASED BLADDER SENSATION WITHOUT OVERACTIVE BLADDER

#### Case presentation

This patient was a 23 year-old women who works in a supermarket and had no medical disease. She had complained of frequency and a small voided volume for more than one year. There was no nocturia, no urgency and no dysuria; furthermore, no bladder pain at

full bladder was noted. The Qmax was 15 mL/s, the voided volume was 210 mL and PVR was 0 mL. She had been treated with detrusitol for 2 weeks but without success (Table 7).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary revealed increased daytime frequency with a small voided volume. However, no urgency, UUI and nocturia were found in the diary. Interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome (IC/PBS) is not very much likely because the patient did not complain of bladder pain; however to be cautious, these should be suspected. In these circumstances, it is important to further check the patient's water intake and output balance. If she drinks little water each day, the frequency is possible due to highly concentrated urine. We would advise her to increase her daytime hydration to dilute the urine produced. No

**Table 7.** Increased Bladder Sensation without Overactive Bladder (OAB)

請記錄您從上午06:00到隔天上午05:59的排尿情況，由上到下依序填寫。				
時間	尿急(√)	尿失禁(√)	排尿(√)	排尿量(mL)
07:00			√	200
10:00			√	150
12:20			√	200
14:00			√	150
15:00			√	200
17:00			√	80
19:00			√	200
20:30			√	220
23:30			√	200
03:00			√	180

**Table 6.** Nocturnal Polyuria and Overactive Bladder (OAB)

排 尿 記 錄 單														
姓名：連 XX														
日期(第一天)：8月19日					日期(第二天)：8月20日					日期(第三天)：8月21日				
時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿
7-8		1000			7-8	100	1200			7-8		900		
8-9	200		√		8-9					8-9	220			
9-10	200				9-10	200		√		9-10	200	150		
10-11		100			10-11	100	150			10-11				
11-12	100		√		11-12		150			11-12	200		√	
12-1	100	200			12-1	150	300			12-1		200		
1-2		150			1-2					1-2				
2-3	150				2-3		200			2-3	200	200		
3-4					3-4	120		√		3-4				
4-5	100	150	√		4-5					4-5	120		√	
5-6		100			5-6	120				5-6				
6-7	100	150			6-7		300			6-7	100	300		
7-8					7-8					7-8		150		
8-9		300			8-9	230		√		8-9	200			
9-10	200	100			9-10		200			9-10	100	150		
10-11					10-11					10-11		100		
11-12	210	200			11-12					11-12				
睡眠 期間	300 300 400	350			睡眠 期間	400 480 220	350			睡眠 期間	400 400 440			

antimuscarinics are needed for a patient who does not have OAB.

#### CASE 8: FREQUENCY NOCTURIA AND BLADDER PAIN SUGGESTIVE OF INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS/PAINFUL BLADDER SYNDROME

##### Case presentation

The patient was a 64 year-old woman who had previously had a total hysterectomy for myoma uteri 5 years ago. For the last 5 years, she had suffered from frequent urinary tract infections at a rate of about twice per year. She had also complained of frequency and a small voided volume for 3 years; however, no urgency and no UUI were noted. In addition, she complained of lower abdominal discomfort that was associated with a full bladder. She had been treated with detrusitol for 1 month but without success (Table 8).

##### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary reveals increased daytime and night time frequency with a small voided volume. There were several episodes of urgency but no UUI or nocturnal polyuria in the diary. The presence of bladder pain symptoms associated with the frequency and small voided volume means that IC/PBS should be suspected. Urgency is not an absolute symptom for OAB because patients with IC/PBS might also feel urgency to void and, sometimes, mistake the bladder feeling as urgency. Either antimuscarinics or analgesics could be tried and if the treatment fails, then an urodynamic study with a KCI test followed by

cystoscopic hydrodistention may find the characteristic bladder findings for IC/PBS.

#### CASE 9: BLADDER OUTLET OBSTRUCTION WITH OVERACTIVE BLADDER

##### Case presentation

An 81 year-old man had DM and hypertension and had been under regular treatment for 5 years. He complained of frequency urgency, small urine flow and nocturia three times per night for 3 years. The Qmax was 8 mL/s, the voided volume was 257 mL, the PVR was 120 mL, the TPV was 64 mL, the TZI was 0.5, and the prostate specific antigen (PSA) was 3.9 ng/mL. He had been treated with doxazosin for 3 months but without success (Table 9).

##### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary reveals increased daytime and night time frequency with a small voided volume both during the day and during the night. The diary also demonstrates the presence of urgency and UUI, but no nocturnal polyuria. This patient has an enlarged prostate, a large TZI, a low Qmax and a large PVR and therefore benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) causing BOO and the subsequent OAB is likely. A 5-alpha-reductase inhibitor (5-ARI), doxazosin and antimuscarinics can be added as treatment for the BOO and OAB. If this medical treatment fails, TUR-P might be helpful to relieve the BOO and allow a stable bladder to be recreated.

**Table 8.** Frequency Nocturia and Bladder Pain Suggestive of Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome (IC/PBS)

排 尿 記 錄 單									
姓名：王 XX									
日期(第一天)：4月23日					日期(第二天)：4月24日				
時間	喝水量	尿量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	喝水量	尿量	急尿感	漏尿
08:00	100	70			08:10	120	100	√	
08:40		60	√		09:00	160	90		
10:10	100	90			10:00	90			
12:00	110	120			11:00	80	50	√	
13:00	120	150			12:00	110	70		
13:50	50	70			12:40	70			
14:30	100				13:50		100		
15:00		110	√		14:00	120			
15:30	90	50			14:40	90	70		
16:00		60			15:30	100	120		
17:00	160				16:20	100	70		
18:10	100	70			17:10		50		
19:00	100	50			18:00	120	50		
19:50	70		√		19:20	120	70		
20:20	60	50			20:00	50	90		
					20:30		80	√	
					21:20		60		
就寢時間：23:00					就寢期間：22:50				
01:40		150	√		01:00		160	√	
03:50		100			02:30	50	100		
05:10		70			05:00		120	√	
07:00		100			07:10		90		
總計	1160	1420			總計	1330	1400		

## CASE 10: POLYDIPSIA, NOCTURNAL POLYURIA, OVERACTIVE BLADDER AND SMALL FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

### Case presentation

An 81 year-old man had a history of BPH s/p TURP at the age of 65 and the voiding had been uneventful for many years. He also had mild DM and had been under oral hypoglycemic treatment for >10

years; his sugar was AC 157, his BUN was 36 and his Cr was 3.1. He had complained of frequency urgency, UUI and nocturia for more than 5 year, but no dysuria was noted. He had been treated with detrusitol for 3 months but without success. Moreover, a dry mouth and dysuria had developed after detrusitol therapy (Table 10).

### Interpretation and management

The voiding diary reveals a high daily water intake and increased daytime/night time frequency. The small voided volume is constant and there is both urgency and UUI in the diary. Nocturnal polyuria is also noteworthy. Polydipsia due to hyperosmolality (DM and azotemia), OAB, a small bladder capacity, and nocturia polyuria are combined in this patient. Antimuscarinics should be added to treat the OAB together with DDAVP before sleep to treat the nocturnal polyuria. Restricting fluid intake is also necessary to decrease his daily urine output. If the antimuscarinics do not work, then we may consider a beta-3 adrenergic agonist to treat his refractory DO.

### REFERENCES

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**Table 9.** Bladder Outlet Obstruction (BOO) with Overactive Bladder (OAB)

請記錄您從上午06:00到隔天上午05:59的排尿情況，由上到下依序填寫。				
時間	尿急(√)	尿失禁(√)	排尿(√)	排尿量(mL)
06:17			√	190
08:15			√	120
09:30	√		√	140
11:20			√	120
11:58			√	100
13:45	√	√	√	150
14:00			√	150
14:28			√	120
15:00	√		√	130
16:15		√	√	110
17:00		√	√	50
18:30			√	110
21:20			√	110
23:55			√	200
03:00			√	350
05:30			√	240

**Table 10.** Polydipsia, Nocturnal Polyuria, Overactive Bladder (OAB) and Small Functional Capacity

排 尿 記 錄 單														
姓名：李 XX														
日期(第一天)：9月14日					日期(第二天)：9月15日					日期(第三天)：9月16日				
時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿	時間	尿量	喝水量	急尿感	漏尿
7-8	100, 80	230	2		7-8	120, 80, 50	230	3		7-8	80, 100, 50	230	3	
8-9	100, 70, 80	460	3		8-9	100, 100, 80	460	3		8-9	100, 80, 60	460	3	
9-10	100, 100	230	2		9-10	100, 50	230	2		9-10	50, 100	230	2	
10-11	120, 90	230	2		10-11	120, 70	230	2		10-11	100, 70	230	2	
11-12	180, 100, 120	230	3		11-12	100, 80	230	2		11-12	80, 100	230	2	
12-1	150, 80, 100	230	3		12-1	180, 100, 80	230	3		12-1	80, 100, 120	230	3	
1-2	100, 110	230	2		1-2	180, 100, 80	230	3		1-2	80, 100	230	2	
2-3	100, 120	230	2		2-3	100, 150	230	2		2-3	100, 120	230	2	
3-4	80, 100, 80	230	3		3-4	100, 80, 50	230	3		3-4	80, 100, 60	230	3	
4-5	100, 80	230	2		4-5	80, 90	230	2		4-5	90, 100	230	2	
5-6	80, 120	230	2		5-6	150, 80	230	2		5-6	80, 120	230	2	
6-7	100, 80, 100	460	3		6-7	80, 120, 50	460	3		6-7	100, 80, 60	230	3	
7-8	100, 100	230	2		7-8	100, 80	230	2		7-8	100, 80	230	2	
8-9	80, 100	230	2		8-9	100, 120	230	2		8-9	60, 120	230	2	
9-10	100, 50, 150	460	4	√	9-10	150, 120, 80	460	3		9-10	100, 80, 120	460	3	
10-11					10-11					10-11				
11-12					11-12					11-12				
睡眠期間	1400/7次				睡眠期間	1300/6次				睡眠期間	1300/6次			