Paper

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Urinary Incontinence in Myelomeningocele

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Key Words

Child
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Abstract

In our study there were 81 (88%) incontinent children out of 91 aged 5 years or older in the 174 children born with spina bifida cystica. The sex of the child, the presence of nonprogressive hydrocephalus and the vertebral level of the lesion did not significantly influence the incidence of incontinence. Detrusor activity was present in 89% of the children evaluated. Upper tract deterioration was present in 41–44% of the children with incontinence. Conservative management with Credé expression or urethral catheter drainage did not reduce upper tract changes and was not always successful in controlling the incontinence. Intestinal conduit surgery was successful in reducing upper tract changes and in managing incontinence. This surgery did have a significant complication rate mainly stomal stenosis but early diagnosis and treatment of the complications prevented deterioration in the upper urinary tracts.