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# THE SEVERITY OF SYMPTOMS OF PATIENTS WITH ANAL INCONTINENCE OR CHRONIC CONSTIPATION CANNOT PREDICT MAJOR ALTERATIONS OF QUALITY OF LIFE

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**Introduction:** Chronic constipation and functional incontinence are associated with quality of life impairments. Whether thresholds of symptom score severity could predict alterations of quality of life have raised little investigations.

**Aims:** Evaluate the impact of chronic constipation and anal incontinence on patient's quality of life. Determine a threshold of symptom severity indicating impairment of quality of life.

**Patients & Methods:** 422 patients explored for chronic constipation or anal incontinence was included prospectively. The severity of constipation and anal incontinence was measured with the Kess questionnaire and the Jorge Wexner score respectively. The Bristol scale was used to evaluate stool form for both clinical conditions. Quality of life was evaluated with the Giqli questionnaire.

**Results:** The study population included 213 patients with anal incontinence (Jorge and Wexner score of  $10.7 \pm 20$ ,  $61 \pm 15$  years) and 209 with chronic constipation (Kess score of  $21.1 \pm 39$ ,  $56 \pm 17$  years,  $p < 0.01$  respectively). Patient's quality of life was equally altered in anal incontinence and chronic constipation ( $87 \pm 26$  vs.  $89 \pm 24$  of Giqli score,  $p = 0.46$  respectively). There was a significant correlation between symptom scores and GIQLI score ( $r = 0.45$  for incontinence and  $r = 0.48$  for constipation;  $p > 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** Quality of life is altered in both chronic constipation and anal incontinence. The use of Jorge Wexner score in anal incontinence and Kess score in chronic constipation cannot serve to predict significant patient's quality of life dysfunction.

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