

# WORLD JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

SJIF Impact Factor 8.084

Volume 11, Issue 2, 418-454.

**Review Article** 

ISSN 2277-7105

# RECENT UPDATES IN THE TREATMENT OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER SYNDROME

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# Article Received on 01 December 2021,

Revised on 22 Dec. 2021, Accepted on 12 Jan. 2022

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr20222-22842

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# **ABSTRACT**

Overactive bladder is symptom- based condition defined as a syndrome of urinary urgency, with or without urgency incontinence, usually with urinary frequency (voiding eight or more times in a 24hour period) and nocturia (awakening two or more times at night to void) in the absence of infection or other obvious pathologic features. Overactive bladder syndrome is now classified as a symptom syndrome suggestive of lower urinary tract dysfunction by the International Continence Society (ICS). OAB is commonly called as "detrusor overactivity/ unstable bladder/detrusor hyperreflexia". OAB has an impact on everyday activities and social functions like employment, travel, physical activity, sleep, and sexual function.

Detrusor malfunction, Urgency, Incontinence, **KEYWORDS:** Bladder, Hyperlipidemia, Bladder outlet obstruction, Inflammation.

# INTRODUCTION

Overactive bladder (OAB) is symptom- based<sup>[1]</sup> condition defined as a syndrome of urinary urgency, with or without urgency incontinence, usually with urinary frequency (voiding eight or more times in a 24-hour period)<sup>[3,4]</sup> and nocturia (awakening two or more times at night to void)<sup>[3,4,5]</sup> in the absence of infection or other obvious pathologic features.<sup>[1-5]</sup> Overactive bladder syndrome is now classified as a symptom syndrome suggestive of lower urinary tract dysfunction by the International Continence Society (ICS). [6] OAB is commonly called as "detrusor overactivity/unstable bladder/detrusor hyperreflexia". [7] OAB has an impact on everyday activities and social functions like employment, travel, physical activity, sleaep, and sexual function. [8,9] Nocturia is associated with sleep disruption, which decreases the quality

of life. [14-17] In the absence of a urinary tract infection, metabolic disturbances (affecting urination), or urinary stressed incontinence (generated by effort or overexertion). Only a third of people with OAB experience urge incontinence, often known as wet OAB. This is not to be associated with incontinence caused by the urethra and pelvic floor failing to tolerate gastric pressure, which is typically not accompanied with "urgency." Mixed urinary symptoms are a diagnosis granted to individuals who have both OAB and urinary stress incontinence symptoms. [8,9,10]

Overactive bladder has an unknown etiology. [13] Obesity, coffee consumption, and constination<sup>[12]</sup> are all risk factors. Diabetes that is poorly managed, low functional mobility, and chronic pelvic discomfort can all exacerbate the symptoms. [13] People typically suffer symptoms for a long period before seeking therapy, and caregivers are sometimes the first one to notice the condition. Other disorders such as urinary tract infections or neurological illnesses must be ruled out before a diagnosis can be made based on a person's signs and symptoms. [11,13] During each urination, only a little amount of pee is passed. Other than hyperactive bladder, pain when peeing indicates that there is a problem. [13]

# **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

The prevalence of OAB also varies by race/ethnicity for both men and women. Based on data from the EpiLUTS study, the prevalence of OAB is 33.3 % in AfricanAmerican (AA) men, 28.0 % in Hispanic men, 27.0 % in Asian men, and 26.3 % in White men. OAB was reported by 45.9 % of AA, 43.4 % of White, 42.0 % of Hispanic, and 26.6 % of Asian women. [20] Data from the OAB-POLL study on racial prevalence are slightly different, even though methods were similar. [15] OAB prevalence was higher for AA (20.2 %) men than Hispanic (18.1 %) or white men (14.6 %); and for women, OAB was prevalent in 32.6 % of AA, 29.0 % of Hispanic, and 29.4 % white women. NHANES data on UI supports that AA women report the highest prevalence of urge-UI (11.0 %) over white and Mexican-American women (7.5 and 7.5 %, respectively)<sup>[19]</sup>

Urinary incontinence (UI) has also been studied extensively, and the prevalence rates vary widely. The EPIC study reported that women had a much higher rate of any UI (urge, mixed, stress, and other) than men (13.1% vs 5.4%). The prevalence of OAB in Asian men is high and more common in older patients. The treatment rate for the symptoms was much lower than in western countries, suggesting a need for better education of patients and more research for effectively managing the OAB. Two recently printed international prevalence studies from Europe and Asia show totally different prevalence values [Europe: 15.6% (men), 17.4% (women); Asia: 53.1% (women)], which can result to method differences. each studies report a rise of OAB prevalence corresponding with age. The accumulative incidence of OAB is rising quicker in aging males than in aging females. 2-thirds of the European and quartern of the Asian people tormented by OAB complained regarding impaired quality of life, however solely 60% of the European and 21% of the Asian sufferers have talked to a doctor or wanted treatment. One out of 4 patients visiting their health care skilled for OAB symptoms is presently beneath medication. To avoid high treatment prices and facet effects, pharmacotherapy (e.g., antimuscarinics) ought to solely lean once careful diagnostic evaluation.[23]

#### **ETIOLOGY**

The etiology of OAB contains animal tissue and non-neurogenic detrusor upset similarly as detrusor hypersensitivity. Animal tissue detrusor hyperactivity could also be caused by meagerly animal tissue inhibition, chronic neuropathies, and neural structure lesions, whereas bladder aging, bladder outlet obstruction, and chronic bladder irritation (UTI, stones, tumors) are attainable causes for nonneurogenic detrusor hyperactivity.

The main factors of OAB are primarily of three types:

- 1) Neurogenic Damaged central inhibitory pathways (de Groat WC.).
- 2) Myogenic- variations in the detrusor muscles, [24] resulting in myogenic contractions [24-26] and its increased sensitivity to neurotransmitters. [27]
- 3) Urotheliogenic

Since most medical specialty surveys specialize in enuresis while not considering urgency frequency without incontinence, epidemiologic knowledge regarding

OAB are rare. Most common causes of OAB are

- Weak pelvic muscles which are majorly caused in females during pregnancy or childbirth
- Nerve damages, where the brain sends signals to the bladder at unusual times to pee. Some psychological diseases, hernias, pelvic surgeries etc.
- Medications like the diuretics increase diuresis causing urinary frequency.
- UTI: The most common infection, which is characterized by urinary urgencies and emergencies.
- Menopause, during which the levels of estrogen reduces. [23-28]

- Improper bladder emptying
- Drinking too much fluids. [29]
- Pelvic prolapse
- Prostatic hypertrophy<sup>[30]</sup>
- Age, as age ascends the mind loses alertness causing unknown urinary leak<sup>[31]</sup>
- Constipation
- Bladder obstructions
- Diabetes<sup>[32]</sup>
- Interstitial cystitis<sup>[34]</sup>

# **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:**

- Urgency
- Frequency >8 times a day
- Nocturia
- Urinary Incontinence<sup>[28,29]</sup>

# **DIAGNOSIS**

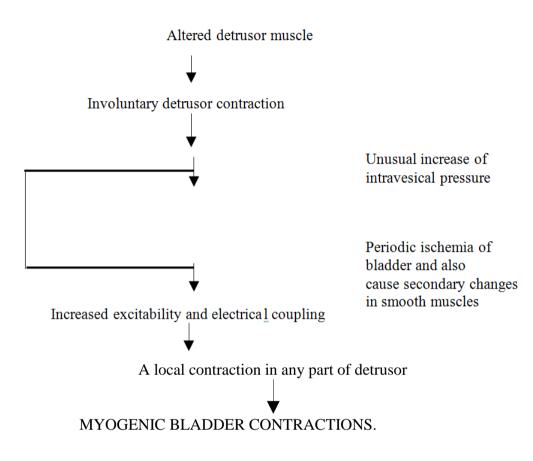
The patients must not feel shy to consult a doctor for the issue of OAB. The tests which can be done for evaluation are CUE, Neurological exams for focusing ability which may recognize abnormal reflexes, urinalysis, urine culture, rectal exams, pelvic exams. [33] Some other useful tests include Urine cytology, PVR (Post Void Residue), Ultrasound, Urodynamic measurements to measure detrusor muscle activity. [34] Tests for bladder functions including the volume of urine left in the bladder, Ultrasound which measures the thickness of the bladder wall, detecting the rate of flow of urine by using uroflow meter, Bladder pressure test by using Cystometry. [32]

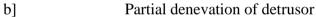
# **PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**

The pathophysiology can be explained by the three major causes which are, Myogenic, Neurogenic and Urotheliogenic.

# 1) Myogenic Cause<sup>[35-39]</sup>

a]







Supersensitivity of detrusor to neurotransmitters



Augmentation of response.

# 2) Neurogenic Cause<sup>[42]</sup>

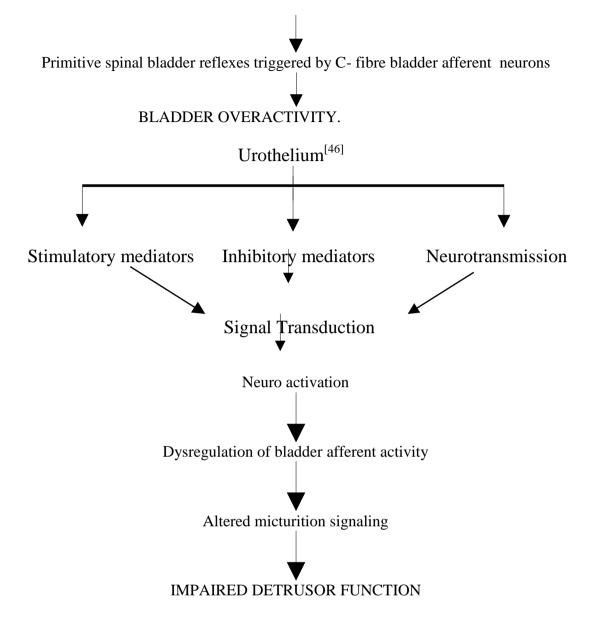
Damage to the central inhibitory path in brain and spinal cord.

{Or}

Sensitization of peripheral afferent terminals in bladder



Damage to axonal pathay in spinal cords



A study by Kessler et al. described the involvement of thalamus, as an important part playing a regulatory role in the lower urinary tract functioning. The study also suggested that deep brain thalamic stimulation leads to "urgency". [43] A recent study which involved brain imaging proved that a substantial network of brain controls the bladder and any dysfunction in former may cause "incontinence". [44] Any alterations in the Nonadrenergic Noncholinergic (NANC) transmission also leads to OAB

In a study which aimed to detect purinergic component of nerve mediated detrusor muscle contractions, reported the occurrence of purinergic component upto 50% in OAB specimens.[45]

De Laet et al. suggested that oxybutynin may influence bladder sensory nerves directly or indirectly, inhibiting the afferent part of the micturition reflex, using a rat model. Another study found that the  $\beta_3$ -AR agonist CL316,243 can inhibit mechanosensitive A delta-fibers but not C-fibers of primary bladder afferents in rats. CL316,243, a  $\beta_3$ -AR agonist, can also reduce PGE(2)-induced C-fiber hyperactivity.

4,5-dichloro-1,3-diethyl-1,3-dihydro-benzoimidazol-2-one (NS4591) is the new positive modulator of calcium-activated  $K_+$  channels, which has proved to be effective in OAB. In the primary afferent neurons of the acutely dissociated bladder, NS4591activate small conductance  $K_+$  channels.<sup>[49]</sup>

# 3. Urotheliogenic cause

According to mounting evidence, the urothelium is not only a passive barrier, but also a responsive structure capable of detecting temperature, mechanical, and chemical stimuli. The excitability of afferent neurons and the contractility of the detrusor muscle may be affected by transmitters generated by the urothelium.<sup>[50,51]</sup> The absence of the urothelium may result in an increase in the detrusor's spontaneous activity.<sup>[53]</sup> Chronic urothelial damage causes an increase in urine frequency and a decrease in voiding volume.<sup>[53]</sup> As a result, the urothelium plays a significant role in the pathogenesis of OAB.

Urothelial cells produce ion channels that are comparable to stretch activated (mechanosensitive) channels in neural tissue, and these channels may play a role in lower urinary tract mechanotransduction. The epithelial sodium channel (ENaC) has been linked to a variety of functions, including mechanical and nociceptive stimulus transduction. [54] TRPV1, a Ca2+-permeable, non-selective cation channel involved in nociception, is found in urothelial cells and is thought to be responsible for their sensitivity to vanilloid chemicals. [55] In cultivated urothelial cells, exogenous administration of capsaicin or resiniferatoxin raises intracellular calcium and causes transmitter release (NO, ATP). TRPV1 null animals had no response to intravesical chemical stimulation, demonstrating that TRPV1 is required for mediating urothelial responses. Despite the fact that only TRPV1 has been widely explored thus far, the role of additional TRP channels presents fresh targets to investigate. [56]

The urothelium synthesises and releases acetylcholine (Ach) in a way that differs significantly from neurons in terms of the molecular components of the ACh synthesis and release mechanism. As a result, pharmaceutical treatments to OAB might target urothelium

and nerves differently.<sup>[57]</sup> Chuang et al. found that solifenacin-induced detrusor overactivity was inhibited by human urine retrieved after ingesting the drug. The authors concluded that urine discharged following oral solifenacin administration may act at the urothelium, providing a targeted pharmacological advantage for the treatment of OAB.<sup>[58]</sup>

# 4. Some specific condition like the bladder outlet obstructions and Diabetes may also lead to OAB

**Bladder outlet obstruction:** It was discovered in 31–68 percent of individuals with OAB in urodynamic examinations of patients with lower urinary symptoms.<sup>[59,60]</sup> Patients without bladder outlet obstruction have a 25% chance of developing OAB, while those with bladder outlet obstruction have a 62% chance. <sup>[63-65]</sup> Persistent OAB symptoms were found in 25–31% of OAB individuals who had their prostate removed transurethrally. <sup>[59,60,62]</sup> In patients who have had a prostatectomy, however, the rate of de novo OAB has been reported to be less than 10%. <sup>[60,62]</sup>

NGF, TREK1, K+ channel, muscarinic, and purinergic receptors have all been implicated in bladder outlet obstruction-induced OAB.

Irritative symptoms have been linked to changes in afferent nerves. Nerve growth factor (NGF) is a secretory protein that is critical for peripheral nervous system development. [63,64] In a bladder outlet obstruction model in rats, previous research has revealed that NGF contributes in target organ—neuronal interactions that result in neural plasticity. [63-65] TRPV1 is expressed by urothelial cells as well as afferent neurons that form close contact with the bladder. [66] As a result, alterations in NGF and TRPV1 expression in the bladder may affect sensory signalling and persisting irritative sensations in unstable bladders after bladder outlet obstruction alleviation. [67]

TREK-1 is a molecular candidate for the stretch-dependent K(+) channel SDK, which is mechanosensitive and regulates the membrane potential of detrusor myocytes during bladder filling. TREK-1 may aid bladder wall relaxation during filling, allowing urine to pass through at low pressure. The expression of TREK-1 channel protein and immunoreactivity in bladder smooth muscle was considerably reduced in bladder outlet obstructed animals, according to a study. In sham operated animals, L-methioninol, a TREK-1 channel blocker, caused a substantial increase in premature contractions during the filling phase. L-methioninol, on the other hand, had no effect in blocked animals with an overactive detrusor

phenotype. These findings suggest that 6 weeks of bladder outlet obstruction exposure enhances the function of both BK  $\beta$ 1-subunit and SK kinds of Ca 2+-activated K+ channels in the detrusor smooth muscle, resulting in a decrease in bladder contractility, which could be a compensatory mechanism to diminish bladder outletobstruction-induced OAB. [70]

One of the processes of detrusor contraction is the activation of muscarinic receptors on the detrusor. Furthermore, data suggests that urothelial cells express muscarinic receptors<sup>[71]</sup> and that urothelial/suburothelial muscarinic receptors are involved in the genesis of OAB or sensory urgency. [72,73] P2X receptors are ATP-gated ion channels that are likely made up of three protein subunits. Stretched urothelial cells release ATP<sup>[74,75]</sup> which binds to P2X3 receptors on suburothelial sensory afferents. [75,76] Intravesical ATP instillation causes OAB in conscious freely moving rats, indicating that ATP plays a role in urothelial signaling.

Muscarinic and purinergic receptors were found to be co-localized in the urothelium and muscle layer in a prior work using immunofluorescence labeling. [78] The expression of M2, M3, and P2X3 receptors was elevated in the urothelium of BOO animals, as evidenced by immunoreactivity and Western blotting. In the BOO group, M3 receptor expression was also higher in the muscular layer. [77-78] Changes in urothelium receptor expression could have a role in modulating afferent sensory responses in the urine bladder, according to these findings.<sup>[77]</sup>

Diabetes: In a model of streptozocin-induced diabetic rats, the influence of diabetes on bladder function was detected. Remodeling of the bladder wall occurs early in the course of diabetic bladder dysfunction.<sup>[79,80]</sup> Detrusor hypertrophy and mechanical property changes are caused by diabetes' diuresis and metabolic consequences, resulting in a decrease in bladder voiding efficiency. Detrusor overactivity can potentially be a result of diabetic vesical neuropathy in its early stages. Two-weekold streptozocin-induced diabetic rats showed increased expression of M2 and M3 receptors in the uroepithelium and bladder muscle layer. [81,82] Reduced bladder feeling and urodynamic detrusor underactivity are reported in individuals with classic diabetic cystopathy, which could explain why some diabetic bladder dysfunction patients have less urgency.

**Metabolic syndrome:** A study suggested that activation of M2,3-muscarinic receptors in the bladder was linked with DO in an animal model of metabolic syndrome caused by fructose eating. [83] Proinflammation, increased oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, an increase

in apoptosis in the detrusor muscle, and detrusor hypertrophy were among the metabolic perturbations caused by long-term fructose eating that contributed to DO and OAB symptoms. [84,85] Nobe et al. found lower Rho kinase and protein kinase activity, which weakened detrusor contractility, in a spontaneously hypertensive and hyperlipidemic rat model.[86]

**Hyperlipidemia:** In a chronic hyperlipidemic rabbit model, heritable hyperlipidemia has been demonstrated to result in decreased bladder capacity, diminished DO, and nerve degeneration. [86] This finding could help to explain why people with hyperlipidemia have more OAB symptoms. [83] According to Azadoi et al., ischemia bladder and DO are caused by hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis. [88,89] Internal iliac artery remodelling caused by hypercholesterolemia, as well as endothelial damage, are thought to have a role in the development of OAB, according to the researchers. Furthermore, elevated proinflammatory cytokines and leukotrienes may cause bladder hyperactivity by increasing smooth muscle contraction.

Detrusor muscle hypertrophy: In animal models of metabolic syndrome and diabetes, detrusor hypertrophy is another prevalent occurrence. [79,83,85] In a fructose-fed rat model, detrusor hypertrophy is linked to lower functional bladder capacity and higher urine frequency. Detrusor hypertrophy is frequently linked to poor compliance, high intravenous pressure, and DO, all of which can dramatically limit bladder blood flow. [90] Increased reactive nitrogen species and recurrent ischemia-reperfusion damage followed. Repeated DO and urine frequency cause oxidative stress by overworking the detrusor. [89] In the early phases of bladder hyperactivity, mitochondrial machinery could provide high-energy consumption. Excessive energy demand and stimulation in the long run may deplete the mitochondrial respiratory chain and weaken its energy transduction mechanism. Under such conditions, oxidatively strained mitochondria deform and become a source of reactive oxidative stress, triggering a self-destructive process in the mitochondrial respiratory system, resulting in protein degradation, detrusor malfunction, and eventually atrophy.

**Inflammation:** Inflammatory events in the body cause C-reactive protein (CRP) to be generated and released by the liver. The link between high serum CRP and a variety of LUTS implies that inflammation may play a role. Kupelian et al. looked at data from 1898 men and 1854 women who took part in the Boston Area Community Health study and had comprehensive CRP values. [91] They discovered that CRP levels enhanced the frequency of OAB in both men and women. Chuang et al. also discovered that serum CRP levels were considerably higher in OAB wet patients (2.96 0.47 vs 0.93 0.27 mg/L, P 0.01) and OAB dry patients (2.96 0.47 vs 1.06 0.16 mg/L, P 0.05) when compared to controls. [92]

NGF is required throughout adulthood for the maintenance of the normal characteristics of small-sized afferent neurons with unmyelinated axons, as well as for the survival of sensory neurons during development (i.e. C-fiber afferents). NGF appears to be a peripheral mediator in a variety of inflammatory pain disorders, according to accumulating research. [93,94] NGF is a trophic factor produced from a target that is created in the bladder and taken up by sensory neurons before being retrogradely delivered to the spinal cord. Anti-NGF blocks afferent firing and causes bladder hyperactivity in mice when exogenous NGF is given intravenously. [95,98] In spontaneously hypertensive rats, overexpression of NGF in the bladder smooth muscle causes bladder hyperinnervation and hyperactive voiding behavior. [97] Stretching the urothelium can cause NGF synthesis and secretion in the bladder tissue. Urinary NGF levels that are elevated play a key function in moderating the feeling of urgency in OAB. As a result, NGF synthesis could be used as a biomarker for neuroplasticity, which is a typical mechanism involved in the development of OAB.

The bladder's prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), which is produced by bladder muscle and mucosa, has a complicated local function. PGE2 has an effect on both the normal and pathological micturition reflexes (e.g. mucosa injury and inflammatory mediators). [98] In rats and humans. intravenous injection of PGE2 promotes bladder overactivity by stimulating reflex micturition by activating capsaicin sensitive afferent neurons. [99,100]

The considerable rise of NGF and PGE2 levels in the urine of OAB patients revealed a link between inflammation and OAB symptoms in a prior investigation. [101] Urinary NGF levels were shown to be extremely low in normal controls, but considerably greater in patients with OAB, according to Liu et al.. [102]

Additionally, urinary NGF levels in OAB wet patients were considerably greater than in OAB dry patients. According to the findings, increased urine NGF levels play a critical role in mediating the sensation of urgency in OAB. The increased percentage of DO in patients with OAB wet could explain the difference in NGF levels between OAB dry and OAB wet patients. Furthermore, in OAB patients who reacted to intravesical botulinum toxin A injection or oral antimuscarinic medication, urine NGF levels were lower, but not in non-responders, and this was associated with a reduction in urgency severity.<sup>[103,104]</sup>

Eight asymptomatic control persons and 17 idiopathic OAB patients provided midstream urine samples to Tyagi et al. [105] Luminex multiplex ELISA technology (xMAP® technology, Affymetrix, Inc. Santa Clara, CA, USA) was used to test the urine for 12 chemokines, cytokines, growth factors, and soluble receptors. In comparison to controls, OAB patients' urine included a substantial increase in seven major inflammatory proteins. The presence of a high level of chemokines in the urine of OAB patients supports the conclusion that they have significant inflammation. [105] Apostolidis et al. discovered evidence of chronic inflammation in 59.1% of baseline biopsies (65.6 percent of NDO vs 50 percent of IDO, p = 0.049) in a study of 179 biopsies acquired from 79 patients, 123 (63.1 percent) from 51 NDO patients and 56 (26.9%) from 28 IDO patients. Inflammation may have a role in OAB pathophysiology, according to the findings. [106]

**MANAGEMENT:** Urological Society have introduced a two part therapeutic strategy: initial or first-line treatment and specialised secondary treatment. Dietary changes, bladder retraining, pelvic floor retraining with and without biofeedback, and anticholinergic medications as first-line medical treatment are all part of the core treatment. [107]

The goal of treatment is to achieve significant symptom relief, as measured by a decrease in total score on a confirmed standardised overactive bladder syndrome assessment in any of the symptoms of urgency, frequency, nocturia, and urge incontinence, while avoiding pharmacological adverse effects.<sup>[108]</sup>

#### NON- PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPY

i) Life style modification:- Lowering intake of fluids, [109,110] caffeine [111], acidic foods, and alcohol, as well as weight loss and smoking cessation [110], are all potentially beneficial dietary approaches. Patients were instructed to increase or reduce their fluid consumption according to a preset hydration regimen in a randomised crossover experiment. The frequency, urgency, and nocturia of people who lowered their daily consumption by 25% improved significantly. Many individuals found it challenging to cut their oral consumption by half. [111] Caffeine's effects have been studied in observational studies as well as randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trials. Uroflowmetry and cystometry were performed before and after each participant drank water with and without coffee on two consecutive occasions in an

observational research to investigate the effects of caffeine at a level of 4.5 mg/ kg on bladder function.

Caffeine increased diuresis and a stronger need to urinate, as well as increasing the rate of urination and the volume of urine passed. According to the findings, coffee can increase urinary urgency and frequency, hence individuals with overactive bladder symptoms should limit their caffeine intake.

[112] The patients had a significant reduction in frequency and stress incontinence and improved urinary distress inventory and the urinary incontinence impact questionnaire score. [112] A questionnaire study assessing the effects of smoking status and intensity on symptoms of overactive bladder; 3000 questionnaires were sent to randomly identified people patient from the Finnish population register. [113] Smoking significantly associated with urinary urgency (most likely ratio 2.7, 95% confidence interval 1.7 to 4.2 for smokers and 1.8, 1.2 to 2.9 for former smokers compared to with non-smokers) and frequency (3.0, 1.8 to 5.0 and 1.7, 1.0 to 3.1). Smoking is not associated with nocturia or uncontrolled stress. Compared to smoking heavy, light smoking is associated with emergency risk (2.1, 1.1 to 3.9) and frequency (2.2, 1.2 to 4.3). [113] Several singles Prospective arm studies have shown that reducing fluid intake at night reduces nocturia and improves the quality of life symptom score. [114,115] However, the resulting concentrated urine can also act as a bladder irritant due to increased acidity. [116]

**Behavioral therapies** (e.g., bladder training, bladder-control strategies, pelvic floor muscle training, fluid management) should be offered as first-line therapy to all patients with overactive bladder. Antimuscarinic agents may be used in combination with behavioral strategies. Limited evidence suggests that initiating behavioral and pharmacologic therapy simultaneously may improve outcomes, including frequency, voided volume, incontinence, and symptom distress.<sup>[127]</sup>

# **PHARMACOTHERAPY**

# Anticholinergic therapy

Anticholinergic medications block the acetylcholine neurotransmitter synapse within the central and peripheral nervous systems, inhibiting parasympathetic activity, thereby reducing the involuntary movement of smooth muscles like those present within the bladder. [117,118] Multiple anticholinergic medications are available to be used in clinical practice. As a result,

the bladder's ability to contract is decreased. Such medications include non-selective agents darifenacin)[117,118] tolterodine) or moreselective agents (solifenacin, (oxybutynin, Antimuscarinics are also often competitive antagonists. This means that when there is a large amount of ACh released, such as during micturition, the medications effects should be reduced; otherwise, the detrusor's reduced ability to contract might eventually lead to urine retention.[128]

Muscarinic receptors are located on the urothelial cells of the bladder, where their density is even higher than in the detrusor muscle. [129,130] Antimuscarinics are classified as either tertiary or quaternary amines. [131,132] Lipophilicity, molecule charge, and even molecular size varies between them, with tertiary compounds having higher lipophilicity and molecular charge than quaternary agents. Tertiary amines include atropine, darifenacin, fesoterodine (and its active 5hydroxymethyl-tolterodine), oxybutynin, metabolite propiverine, solifenacin, and tolterodine. They are typically easily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and, depending on their specific physicochemical qualities, should potentially be able to enter into the central nervous system (CNS). High lipophilicity, small molecular size, and low charge will enhance the chances of passing across the blood-brain barrier, although active transport out of the CNS by the MDR1 gene product will counterbalance this for some medications. [133]

Propantheline and trospium are quaternary ammonium compounds that are poorly absorbed, only pass through the CNS to a limited extent, and have a low incidence of CNS adverse effects. [131] They still cause well-known antimuscarinic side effects include accommodation paralysis, constipation, tachycardia, and mouth dryness. The P450 enzyme system converts several antimuscarinics into active and/or inactive metabolites. CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 are the most typically implicated P450 enzymes. The metabolic conversion raises the possibility of drug-drug interactions, with the antimuscarinic and/or interacting drug's plasma concentration/effect being lowered (enzyme induction) or raised (enzyme inhibition, substrate competition).<sup>[131]</sup> Antimuscarinics released by the renal tubules (e.g., trospium) might hypothetically obstruct the clearance of other medicines by this mechanism.

Darifenacin: Darifenacin has a high selectivity for M3 receptors, which are the most significant receptors for detrusor contraction, which could enhance efficacy and minimize side effects associated with antagonistic interactions with other receptor subtypes. [151] Darifenacin is actively removed from the brain via a protein-mediated transporter mechanism, similar to that used to remove trospium and fesoterodine. [150]

Fesoterodine is a muscarinic receptor antagonist which is non-subtype selective.<sup>[152]</sup> It's a prodrug this is rapidly degraded by ubiquitous esterases into 5-hydroxymethyl tolterodine (5-HMT), the same active metabolite of tolterodine.<sup>[153]</sup>

Oxybutynin is the earliest OAB medication, and it is still the first or second most commonly given medication in many countries. [154-157] It's an antimuscarinic drug with strong independent musculotropic relaxant and local anaesthetic properties. [158,159] The CYP system converts it to N-desethyloxybutynin (DEO), which is its major metabolite. [160] Oral formulations in the IR and ER, as well as a transdermal administration method and a transdermal gel formulation. [161-163] In compared to oral treatment, transdermal administration modifies the drug's metabolism, resulting in a lower rate of dry mouth. Pruritus and erythema at the application site are the most typical side effects. [164]

Transdermal formulations: Transdermal preparations of oxybutynin offer the benefit of bypassing hepatic breakdown by CYP3A4 enzymes, hence enhancing oxybutynin bioavailability and reducing the blood levels of DEO, the metabolite that is primarily responsible for the drug's negative effects. [172,173] It may improve the patient's tolerance while preserving effectiveness. [173-175] The risk of dry mouth is lowered to around 7%, which is much less than that seen with oral formulations. [176] Propiverine is a nonselective antimuscarinic drug that acts as a musculotropic smooth muscle relaxant. [165] It also contains calcium antagonistic and alpha(1)-adrenoceptor antagonistic activities, although their importance in terms of clinical consequences is unclear. [166]

Trospium is a hydrophilic quaternary amine that has difficulty penetrating though blood-brain barrier. As a result, there is a low risk of inducing cognitive impairment. Trospium lacks muscarinic subtype selectivity and is metabolised seldom by the hepatic cytochrome P450 system, resulting in a decreased risk of drug-drug interactions, which may be beneficial in the setting of polypharmacy. Renal tubular secretion primarily eliminates it intact in the urine, however it is uncertain if this contributes to its therapeutic efficacy.

Non-selective agents are effective, with a hit rate of >65%. [119]

<b>Medication class</b>	Agent	Route, dose	Adverse effects
Anticholinergic, non-selective	Oxybutynin	Oral, 5 mg three times daily	Dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, drowsiness, delirium
		Topical, 3.9 mg/ 24 hours	Skin reaction, dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, drowsiness, delirium
		Oxybutynin patch 1 patch changed twice weekly (3.9 mg/day) Rotate application site	Dry mouth Constipation Cognitive: no effect Application site pruritis/erythema
Anticholinergic, M3 selective	Solifenacin	Oral, 5–10 mg daily	Severe hepatic impairment
	Darifenacin	7.5–15 mg daily	Dry mouth Constipation Cognitive: no effect
Beta-3 agonist	Mirabegron	Oral, 25–50 mg daily	Hypertension, long QT syndrome
1	Botulinum toxin A (Botox®)	100–200 U idiopathic OAB 200–300 U neurogenic OAB	<ul> <li>Urinary retention (elevated PVR ± need for CIC)</li> <li>Hematuria</li> <li>Urinary tract infection</li> </ul>
	Desmopressin	0.1–0.2 mg daily Concurrently reduce fluid intake to avoid hyponatremia/ water intoxication	Hyponatremia • Cardiac failure • Hypertension

Non-selective agents are effective, with a hit rate of >65%. [119]

**Beta-3 agonist therapy** Beta-3 adrenergic receptor agonists upregulate sympathetic activity, thereby promoting detrusor smooth muscle relaxation and consequently reducing muscle spasms.<sup>[119]</sup> The current commercially available β3 adrenoceptor agonist is mirabegron. It works via a special path to anticholinergic agents by relaxing the detrusor muscle, allowing higher bladder volumes before the necessity for urination.<sup>[117-119]</sup> The stimulation of adenylyl cyclase, which results in the production of cAMP, leads to detrusor relaxation, according to the widely established mechanism of action of 3-AR agonists.<sup>[177]</sup> A recent research found 3-AR expression in cholinergic nerve terminals of the human bladder, suggesting that this receptor may play a role in acetylcholine release control.<sup>[178]</sup>

The function of 3-AR expressed in sensory fibres and urothelial cells is unclear. 3AR are predominantly expressed outside of the bladder in adipose tissue, the gastrointestinal tract and gallbladder, the uterus, and the central nervous system.<sup>[177]</sup>

# Minimally invasive options: Intravesical botulinum toxin A

Botulinum toxin A bladder injections administered via cystoscopy into the wall of the bladder inhibit muscle contractions and suppress bladder activity. The treatment is usually effective for 6–12 months, but the procedure are often repeated. half the patients treated with intravesical neurotoxin A reported improvement in symptoms of OAB. [120,121]

# Sacral nerve stimulation

For spinal nerve stimulation, surgeons implant an electrode within the S3–S4 sacral foramen with the aim of manipulating the sensory pathway of the bladder innervation. After the battery has reached the end of its life cycle, the gadget will need to be replaced, which takes on average 62.5 months. Medtronic, the producer of the InterStim device, advises against using MRI in patients who have the device. They only allow MRI of the head if the gadget is switched off and a magnet of 1.5 Tesla or less is employed.

Axonics just released an implanted rechargeable SNM device on the market. This has replaced the InterStim's limited battery life with a rechargeable lithium ion battery that can last up to 15 years or more.<sup>[148]</sup> The battery should last 2 weeks with normal use before needing to be recharged. This takes 1 to 2 hours and is done with a wireless charger.<sup>[149]</sup> The implantation method was planned to be almost comparable to that of the InterStim.<sup>[149]</sup>

Peripheral tibial nerve stimulation:-For peripheral tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS), an electrode is inserted into the skin 5 cm above the medial malleolus. By way of an electrode, a retrograde stimulation is generated through the tibial nerve to the plexus sacralis. The nerve is increasingly stimulated until big toe flexion, toe abduction or leg extension, at which era the amplitude is reduced by one level and therefore the treatment continues for half-hour. [123] Under local anaesthetic, the implant is surgically implanted. 3 cm superior and 2 cm posterior to the medial malleolus, an incision is made. The electrode is attached using a non-absorbable suture near the tibial nerve. To activate the electrodes, an external control unit is worn around the ankle. This device is worn for 30 minutes six times a week to trigger therapy. [142,143] At three months, a study of 15 patients (13 females) found a substantial reduction in the frequency, urgency, and urgent incontinence events. [143] The quality of life has also improved significantly. Three patients required antibiotics for a week and three patients required analgesics for a week. Although cultures were negative, one gadget was removed because it was suspected of being infected. The gadget was not difficult to operate for any of the patients.

The implant was tested in 36 individuals over the course of six months. [144] At 6 months, 71 percent of patients had achieved clinical success (>50 percent decrease). The number of leaks per day, the severity of the leaks, the frequency of leaks, the degree of urgency, and the number of pad changes per day all decreased dramatically. Patients with urgency incontinence were found to be dry in 28% of cases. The results of the OAB-q questionnaire improved significantly. In 47 percent of patients, there were adverse events: 14 percent experienced discomfort, 22 percent had a suspected infection, and 8% had wound issues. The implant was removed in one patient due to discomfort and edoema, although cultures revealed no infection. In a three-year follow-up study, 20 participants from the prior trial were included. [145] A total of 75% of people had a >50% reduction in their symptoms, as well as a substantial increase in their quality of life. The majority of patients were satisfied in some way. Between 6 months and 3 years, no adverse events were observed.

Invasive surgical options:-When conservative and minimally invasive treatments have failed, bladder augmentation cystoplasty could also be considered to treat enuresis caused by bladder disorder dysfunction, significantly contracted bladder caused by inflammatory conditions, interstitial cystitis and reconstruction after bladder injury. [124] This procedure involves bladder enlargement by adding a bit of bowel into the bladder wall.

Patients with recalcitrant incontinence who are not fit for enlargement or other preoccupations may advantage from a long-term large-bore (18–24 FG) suprapubic catheter. The suprapubic catheter is related with comparable disease rates and coming about complications as long-term urethral catheterization. Patients will moreover ought to be able to care, or have carers able to care, for a leg sack and night bag [125] In extraordinary cases of severe OAB headstrong to all other treatment, urinary redirection within the frame of an ileal conduit with or without cystectomy may be considered after careful guiding in a high-volume centre. [124-126]

# RECENT ADVANCEMENTS

1) **SELECTIVE BLADDER DENERVATION:** bladder denervation on a case-by-case basis

Radiofrequency ablation of the bladder's sub-trigone region, which contains afferent sensory nerves 54, is used in selective bladder denervation (SBD). Under cystoscopic supervision, the gadget is placed to the trigone. 5 mm below the ureteric orifice, the heat delivery probe is placed along the left edge of the trigone. Ablation commences after the electrodes are advanced three millimetres into the urothelium. This is replicated on the trigone's right edge and at numerous locations in between.

This treatment was given to a total of 63 patients with refractory OAB. Frequency, urgency events, and urgency incontinence episodes all decreased significantly after 12 weeks. With no significant difference in post void residuals, ablation for 60 seconds improved urgency incontinence episodes and quality of life scores much more than ablation for 10 seconds. Over the course of 5 days, there was very little pain following the treatment.

# 2) TREATMENT WITH LASER

Einstein defined light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (laser) for the first time in 1917. It's utilised for a variety of medical purposes. Microablative fractional CO 2 laser (SmartXide 2-V 2LR, MonaLisa Touch; DEKA, Florence, Italy) and non-ablative photothermal erbium:YAG (Er:YAG) laser (Fotona Smooth XS; Fotona, Ljubljana, Slovenia) are the two most often used lasers . The laser generates thermomodulation by heating and ablating tissue columns (in the case of the CO 2 laser). [135]

Thirty postmenopausal women with vulvovaginal atrophy and OAB were enrolled in a prospective observational pilot research. <sup>[136]</sup> They received three CO<sub>2</sub> laser treatments spaced

30 days apart. The surgery was carried out without analgesics or anaesthesia in an ambulatory Drug. Bladder diary values, number of urgency episodes, urgent incontinence events all improved significantly.

# RECENT ADVANCEMENTS IN THE PHARMACOTHERAPY

As we have seen the pharmacotherapy mentioned above, there are two major classes of drugs used, which are the Anticholinergics and the Beta 3 agonists.

1) There has been an advancement in the Beta 3 agonists but not the Anticholinergics. Since 2013, mirabegron, a beta-3 agonist, has been utilised as an anticholinergic alternative. [137] In September 2018, Japan approved vibegron, a selective beta-3 adrenoreceptor agonist, for the treatment of OAB. [138] It is unlikely to be metabolised by CYP3A4 or CYP2D6 [139], thus medication interactions are unlikely. Mirabegron suppresses CYP2D6 and can cause drug interactions which is not the case in vibegron. [140] The most common interactions are which occur with metoprolol and Tolterodine. It is common in patients suffering from neuronal disorders like schizophrenia, depression, anxiety to have urinary incontinence for which mirabegron is commonly used and may cause several interactions like increased exposure of the drug used for that particular disorder.

In the bladder, transient receptor potential (TRP) channels are numerous. They've been linked to mechanotransduction, pain, and temperature sensing, therefore their activity is fairly varied. [189] Because normal bladder feeling is believed to be compromised in OAB, modifying afferent brain transmission via TRP receptor modulation might theoretically improve OAB symptomatology. TRPV1, which is desensitised by agonists like capsaicin and resiniferotoxin, is perhaps the most wellknown of the TRP receptors. Both have showed potential in treating symptoms of neurogenic detrusor overactivity, but the availability of intradetrusor botulinum toxin has rendered them rather outdated. Because of the discomfort associated with TRPV1 agonist treatment, they are not suited for idiopathic OAB. TRPV1 inhibitors, on the other hand, may prove to be a far better alternative. In both preclinical and clinical investigations, a number of TRPV1 inhibitors have been studied. [190] Although the effect of TRPV1 inhibition on bladder function in humans has not been studied, multiple animal studies have shown that oral, intravesical, and intravenous TRPV1 treatment decreases detrusor contractility and increases bladder capacity. The development of hyperthermia is one obstacle to TRPV1 inhibitor usage in people, however newer inhibitors tested in human subjects do not appear to have this side effect. [191] While TRPV1 is likely the

most well-studied member of the TRP family in terms of lower urinary tract function, the bladder has numerous additional TRP receptors, including TRPV4, TRPM8, TRPA1, and TRPM4. All of these have been tested in vitro or in animal models with varying degrees of effectiveness, and research into their potential role in OAB is still underway. [190]

- 2) Inhibitors of Phosphodiesterase Type 5:- Erectile dysfunction is treated with phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors (PDE5Is). The effectiveness and safety of daily lowdose tadalafil for 96 female patients with OAB were evaluated in a randomised, doubleblind, placebo-controlled experiment. [1] The overactive bladder symptom score and the Indevus Urgency Severity Scale both improved significantly. When compared to baseline and placebo, there were substantial reductions in OAB symptoms. There were no major side effects noted. The detrusor muscle contraction is hypothesised to be reduced by tadalafil. These drugs are not currently recommended as first-line treatment for OAB.
- 3) Potassium channels are distributed throughout the bladder and play a significant role in the depolarization and repolarization of the detrusor muscle. In able-bodied OAB participants, a recent Phase I investigation with an injectable potassium channel gene plasmid vector shown satisfactory safety and a moderate reduction in urgency and voiding episodes. Despite these encouraging results with an injectable formulation, highly selective oral potassium channel antagonists are unlikely to be created in the near future. There are a slew of other molecular targets for OAB treatment.<sup>[179]</sup> Purinergic receptor blockers, TGF-beta pathway modulators, and Rho-kinase inhibitors are only a few examples. These targets are still in the early stages of development, and only preclinical or in vitro research has been done to see if they can help with bladder dysfunction. [180]
- 4) P2X3 receptors bind urothelial ATP and are involved in the activation of suburothelial sensory fibres, which provide bladder feeling and trigger the micturition reflex. As a result, P2X3 antagonists may offer a new therapy option for OAB. Preclinical studies using P2X3 receptor agonists and P2X3 deletion mice revealed a decrease in voiding frequency and an increase in bladder volume thresholds without affecting the amplitude of detrusor contractions.<sup>[181]</sup> Urinary urgency was significantly reduced in preliminary human tests, according to clinical data. [182] In Europe, more clinical studies are being conducted.
- 5) Another potential target for OAB treatment is the cannabinoid receptor. These receptors are found in the human bladder and urethra, and they have been found to be elevated in the detrusor and sub-urothelial layers of painful bladder syndrome and OAB patients as

compared to healthy controls.<sup>[183]</sup> Although the function of cannabinoid receptors in the urothelium is unknown, it is assumed that activation of these receptors reduces afferent neuronal transmission by reducing the production of activating neuropeptides such as CGRP and adenosine triphosphate (ATP). [184-186] In an animal model investigation, activation of cannabinoid receptors was observed to enhance bladder capacity and reduce maximum voiding pressures. [187] Patients with multiple sclerosis have been the primary participants of human translation studies. In a 2016 research of 15 individuals, cannabidiol/ tetrahydrocannabinol (THC/ CBD) oral-mucosal spray was observed to reduce overactive bladder symptoms after four weeks of use. There was a little increase in maximal bladder capacity and bladder volume at initial desire to pee, although it was not statistically significant. [188] The use of cannabinoid receptor agonists in able-bodied OAB people raises obvious safety issues, but the discovery of selective activators with no systemic effects is a sustainable future route.

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