

## *National incidence and impact of noninfectious urethral catheter related complications on the Surgical Care Improvement Project*

### **Article summary:**

*Urethral catheter-related complications increase length of stay (LOS) and urinary tract infection (UTI) for the majority of the surgical procedures examined.*

A study of patients undergoing 7 specific surgical procedures found urethral catheter-related complications occurring in 0.14% of males, although the authors conclude that these types of complications are likely much higher than is reported in the study. In a univariate analysis, the presence of catheter-related complications increased the mean LOS for 6 of the 7 procedures studied by a range of 1.5 to 3 days and increased UTI for 5 of the 7 procedures by a range of 6.9% to 11.8%. Multivariable analysis revealed a significant association between catheter-related complications and increased LOS of between 1.5 and 3.5 days for 5 of the 7 procedure types, as well as an increased odds of acquiring UTI of between 2.4 and 6.8 for 6 of the 7 procedures examined. The authors of the study state that “Most importantly the potential noninfectious morbidity of the urinary catheter can be mitigated by... potentially spurring manufacturers to create a safer urethral catheter.” Ultimately, the authors hope to raise awareness of noninfectious urethral catheter related complications.

Aaronson DS, Wu AK, Blaschko SD, et al. National incidence and impact of noninfectious urethral catheter related complications on the Surgical Care Improvement Project. J Urol 2011;185:1756-60.

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