Development of a screening tool for identifying women with menorrhagia for hemostatic evaluation

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: A study was conducted to develop a short, easy to administer screening tool useful for stratifying women with unexplained menorrhagia for hemostatic testing for underlying bleeding disorders. STUDY DESIGN: One hundred forty-six women with a physician diagnosis of menorrhagia underwent comprehensive hemostatic testing for the diagnosis of bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease, platelet dysfunction, and coagulation factor deficiencies. A 12 page questionnaire of bleeding symptoms was administered. Bleeding symptoms with high predictive values for laboratory hemostatic abnormalities were combined and used as single variables to calculate sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values in order to develop a short screening tool to identify females for testing and evaluation. RESULTS: A combination of 8 questions in 4 categories resulted in a sensitivity of 82% (95%CI 75-90) for bleeding disorders. Adding a pictorial blood assessment chart score > 100 increased the sensitivity of the screening tool to 95% (95%CI 91-99). CONCLUSION: These results demonstrate the feasibility of a simple questionnaire based screening tool to identify females for testing and evaluation for bleeding disorders.

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