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**Exploring the impact of desire-to-void and lower
urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) on dual-task
performance in aging women: a cross-sectional study**

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Sistema de Geração de Ficha Catalográfica da UFCSPA com os dados fornecidos pelo(a) autor(a).

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RESUMO

Introdução: Mulheres idosas com incontinência urinária (IU) têm maior risco de cair do que mulheres idosas sem IU. A IU pode interferir na marcha cortical fornecendo distração atencional e aumentando o custo cognitivo (CC) durante a caminhada. **Objetivos:** O objetivo geral deste estudo é estabelecer se o desejo de urinar influencia o desempenho de tarefas funcionais em situações de dupla-tarefa. Os objetivos são: (1) avaliar a diferença no desempenho de dupla tarefa entre duas condições experimentais: sem desejo de urinar e com desejo de urinar; e (2) determinar se existe correlação entre os STUI e desempenho de dupla-tarefa durante a marcha em idosas. **Material e métodos:** Este estudo caracteriza-se como um estudo observacional transversal. Mulheres acima de 60 anos foram convidadas a participar do presente estudo através de anúncios públicos na comunidade. As participantes foram solicitadas a realizar o teste “Timed up and go” (TUG) associado à duas tarefas secundárias: uma motora, o teste de Transferência de Moedas (TM), e uma cognitiva, o teste de Fluência Verbal Fonética (FVF). Ainda, essas condições foram realizadas em duas condições de desejo miccional: (1) nenhum desejo (bexiga vazia); e (2) desejo miccional (bexiga cheia). O grau de IU foi avaliado através do International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire: Short Form (ICIQ- SF). Para comparar o custo cognitivo durante as diferentes condições experimentais, foi utilizada análise de variância de medidas repetidas (ANOVA). Para avaliar a correlação entre ICIQ e DTE foi utilizada a correlação de Kendall. **Resultados e conclusões:** Participaram deste estudo 42 mulheres (72.90 ± 5.81 anos) com graus variáveis de IU: nenhuma incontinência (n=13), incontinência leve (n=10), moderada (n=13) e grave (n=6). Nossos resultados confirmam que experimentar uma sensação de bexiga cheia ao caminhar impacta negativamente o desempenho da marcha em mulheres idosas. O desejo miccional durante a caminhada proporcionou um maior custo cognitivo quando comparado com condições de bexiga vazia ($p < 0,01$). Não houve correlação significativa entre os dados apresentados pelo ICIQ e a performance do TUG em nenhuma das condições experimentais. Manter uma marcha consistente e estável e evitar quedas requer recursos cognitivos e processos de pensamento conscientes. Com tarefas adicionais, o desempenho funcional da marcha diminui, indicando um custo cognitivo da dupla tarefa (motora ou cognitiva) e um custo cognitivo adicional da sensação de bexiga cheia. Isso significa que lidar com a sensação de bexiga cheia pode ser uma fonte de desvio de atenção. Dessa forma pode concluir-se que o desejo miccional impacta negativamente o desempenho da caminhada em dupla tarefa em mulheres idosas independente do grau de IU.

Palavras-chave: Idosas, Desejo Miccional, Dupla Tarefa

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Elderly women with urinary incontinence (UI) have a higher risk of falling than elderly women without UI. UI may interfere with cortical gait by providing attentional distraction and increasing cognitive cost (CC) during walking.

Objectives: The overall aim of this study is to determine whether the urge to urinate influences the performance of functional tasks in dual-task situations. The specific objectives are: (1) to assess the difference in dual-task performance between two experimental conditions: without the urge to urinate and with the urge to urinate; and (2) to establish whether there is a correlation between UI symptoms and dual-task performance during walking in elderly individuals.

Materials and Methods: This study is characterized as a cross-sectional observational study. Women over the age of 60 were invited to participate in the current study through community public advertisements. The participants were asked to perform the "Timed up and go" (TUG) test associated with two secondary tasks: a motor task, the Coin Transfer Test (CTT), and a cognitive task, the Phonetic Verbal Fluency (PVF) test.

Additionally, these conditions were conducted under two micturition desire conditions: (1) no desire (empty bladder); and (2) micturition desire (full bladder).

The degree of UI was assessed using the International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire: Short Form (ICIQ-SF). To compare the cognitive cost during the different experimental conditions, repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed. Kendall's correlation was used to assess the correlation between ICIQ and DTE.

Results and Conclusions: Forty-two women (72.90 ± 5.81 years) with varying degrees of UI participated in this study: no incontinence (n=13), mild incontinence (n=10), moderate (n=13), and severe (n=6).

Our results confirm that experiencing a full bladder sensation while walking negatively impacts the gait performance in elderly women. Micturition desire during walking incurred a higher cognitive cost compared to empty bladder conditions ($p < 0.01$). There was no significant correlation between the data provided by the ICIQ and TUG performance in any of the experimental conditions. Maintaining a consistent and stable gait and preventing falls require cognitive resources and conscious thinking processes. With additional tasks, functional gait performance decreases, indicating a cognitive cost of dual-tasking (motor or cognitive) and an additional cognitive cost of the full bladder sensation. This suggests that dealing with the sensation of a full bladder can be a source of attentional distraction. Thus, it can be concluded that micturition desire negatively impacts dual-task gait performance in elderly women regardless of the degree of UI.

Keywords: Gait, Dual-task, Older Adults, Urinary Incontinence, Desire-to-void

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Figure 1. Impact of all experimental conditions on walking task. Participants **(A)** Timed-up and Go (TUG) performance and **(B)** dual-task effect on five experimental conditions: TUGb, TUG baseline; TUGme, TUG motor dual-task empty bladder; TUGmf, TUG motor dual-task full bladder; TUGce, TUG cognitive dual-task empty; TUGcf, TUG cognitive dual-task full bladder..... **37**

Figure 2. Theoretical framework demonstrating the relationship between the individual's internal resources and the cognitive demands imposed by a task such as rushing to reach toilet. Older adults increasingly rely on cognitive brain processes for motor control due to declines in internal resources. At the same time, additional cognitive demands are imposed by differential sources of attentional load. As a result of combining decreased individual's resources to increased cognitive demands of a particular task, task efficiency will decrease, impacting walking ability performance and finally leading to increased risk of falling **38**

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

LUTS Lower urinary tract symptoms

UI Urinary incontinence

ICIQ-SF International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire – Short Form

MoCA The Montreal Cognitive Assessment

ABC-16 Balance Confidence Scale

TUG Timed up-and-go

CTT Coin Transference test

PVF Verbal Fluency Test

USS Urinary sensation scale

DTE Dual-task effect

ANOVA Repeated measures analysis of variance

PFC Prefrontal cortex

SMA Supplementary motor area

DMN Default mode network

TUGb Timed up-and-go baseline

TUGme Timed up-and-go - motor dual-task empty bladder

TUGmf Timed up-and-go - motor dual-task full bladder

TUGce Timed up-and-go - cognitive dual-task empty bladder

TUGcf Timed up-and-go - cognitive dual-task full bladder

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