Original Paper

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Tadalafil Improves Nocturia and Nocturia-Related Quality of Life in Patients with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (KYU-PRO Study)

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Keywords

Nocturia \cdot Quality of life \cdot Hours of undisturbed sleep \cdot Benign prostatic hyperplasia \cdot Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitor

Abstract

Introduction: Tadalafil improves lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) including nocturia. However, the effect of tadalafil on the nocturia-related quality of life (QoL) is still unknown. Objective: The effects of tadalafil on nocturia and nocturia-related QoL were evaluated prospectively in patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) as a multicenter study. *Methods:* Eligible men were ≥40 years with nocturia ≥2 and a prostate volume ≥20 mL. Patients were asked to complete a self-report questionnaire on the International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS), the Nocturia Quality of Life questionnaire (N-QoL) and the International Index of Erectile Function 5 (IIEF5). Urinary frequency volume charts (FVCs) were also evaluated. These measures were evaluated at baseline, and after 4, 8, and 12 weeks of tadalafil administration (5 mg once daily). Results: Thirty-one patients with a mean age of 74 years, a mean prostate volume

of 31 mL, and a mean prostate-specific antigen level of 2.8 ng/mL were included. Treatment with tadalafil significantly improved their nocturia after 4 weeks, and these improvements were maintained for the 12-week treatment period. Total N-QoL score in new patients and several N-QoL items (inadequate sleep at night and overall bother) in all patients improved significantly after tadalafil treatment. FVCs revealed a significant improvement in the number of hours of undisturbed sleep (HUS) after treatment with tadalafil. No serious adverse events were observed. Conclusions: This study indicates that tadalafil 5 mg once daily improves nocturia, nocturia-related QoL, and HUS in BPH patients with nocturia. These results suggest that tadalafil can offer a clinically meaningful treatment option for BPH patients with nocturia. © 2020 S. Karger AG, Basel

Introduction

Night-time voiding (nocturia) is one of the most bothersome symptoms in men with lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS)/benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), and it



is highly prevalent in community-dwelling men [1]. Pharmacological therapies with $\alpha 1$ -blockers, antimuscarinics, or $\beta 3$ agonists are often applied. However, the efficacy of these medications has not been sufficient [2], and alternative treatment options with a different action profile are needed.

Tadalafil, a long-acting phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitor, has recently been approved worldwide for the treatment of LUTS/BPH. The main mechanism of action of tadalafil is enhancement of the nitric oxide-cyclic guanosine monophosphate (NO-cGMP) signaling pathway [3], in contrast to other approved medications for LUTS/BPH. Other mechanisms including increased pelvic blood perfusion, modulation of the afferent nerves, and an anti-inflammatory effect have also been reported [3, 4]. We previously reported that tadalafil improves LUTS including nocturia, general health, and quality of life (QoL) after examining the subjective self-report questionnaires of patients with BPH/LUTS [5, 6]. Other papers have also reported the effect of tadalafil on nocturia in LUTS/BPH patients [7, 8]. However, Oelke et al. [7] stated that the treatment difference in nocturia is small and that the clinical significance of the improvements is questionable; this finding was likely influenced by the study designs, most of which did not test specifically for nocturia [7]. In addition, there have been no reports of the assessment of urinary frequency volume charts (FVCs) to evaluate tadalafil treatment for nocturia.

In this study, we included patients with nocturia ≥2, to examine the effects of tadalafil on nocturia in BPH patients using FVCs. We also evaluated QoL using the Nocturia Quality of Life questionnaire (N-QoL), a research tool for assessing the impact of nocturia on QoL.

Materials and Methods

Study Design

This open, multicenter, 12-week, prospective clinical study to examine the efficacy of tadalafil for treating nocturia was conducted at 4 institutes in Japan between November 2016 and December 2017.

Study Protocol

Eligible men were \geq 40 years old with nocturia \geq 2 and a prostate volume \geq 20 mL. Those patients previously prescribed α 1-blockers were changed to tadalafil after a washout period of 1 week. No patients were taking anticholinergics or β -3 agonists, but 1 was taking dutasteride (which was not discontinued during the study).

Tadalafil was administered at a dose of 5 mg once daily over 12 weeks. Nocturia was assessed as the overall night-time voiding frequency based on the International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS) Q7. Efficacy measures included the IPSS, IPSS-QoL score, International Index of Erectile Function 5 (IIEF5), and N-QoL score,

Table 1. Patient demographics and background

	All patient	New patients	
	SAS (n = 31)	FAS (n = 29)	$\overline{\text{FAS } (n = 19)}$
Demographics			
Age, years	73.8±6.4	74.0 ± 6.5	74.1±6.8
BMI	23.5±3.0	23.5±3.0	23.3±2.3
Comorbidity			
Hypertension	11 (35)	10 (34)	7 (37)
Diabetes mellitus	5 (16)	5 (17)	4 (21)
Dyslipidemia	9 (29)	9 (31)	5 (26)
IPSS total score		16.9±6.5	15.8±5.0
IPSS-QOL score		4.9 ± 1.0	5.0 ± 0.9
IIEF5 score		8.1±6.0	7.8 ± 6.4
Q _{max} , mL/s		12.1±6.5	15.7±5.2
PVR, mL		58.5±52.2	63.4±58.2
Prostate volume, mL		30.8±11.0	32.4±10.9
PSA, ng/mL		2.8 ± 2.3	2.9±2.3

Values express mean \pm SD or n (%). SAS, safety analysis set; FAS, full analysis set; PVR, postvoid residual urine volume; PSA, prostate-specific antigen.

assessed at baseline and after 4, 8, and 12 weeks of therapy. The questionnaires were translated into Japanese, validated, and the reliability was confirmed [9–12]. FVCs (at least a 2-day bladder diary) and uroflowmetry were evaluated at baseline and at week 12. Exclusion criteria were contraindications to the study drugs, prostate carcinoma, and other urological diseases. Safety was evaluated based on subject-reported adverse events (AEs).

Statistical Analysis

Efficacy was assessed on the full analysis set (FAS), defined as those patients who received tadalafil at least once and who had a baseline assessment and at least 1 other assessment. Assessments of safety and tolerability were based on all patients (safety analysis set; SAS). Data are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). Changes of variables before and after tadalafil treatment were evaluated using the paired t test. All tests were two-sided, and p values <0.05 were considered to be statistically significant. All statistical analysis was carried out with EZR (Saitama Medical Center, Jichi Medical University, Saitama, Japan) [13].

Results

Patient Characteristics

The characteristics of the 31 eligible patients are listed in Table 1. The majority of participants (n = 27; 87.1%) were older than 65 years. Two patients were excluded from the analysis of efficacy; 1 was lost to follow-up and

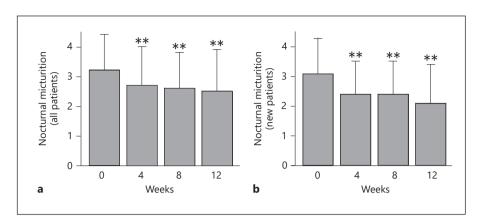


Fig. 1. Effect of tadalafil on nocturnal micturition in all patients (**a**) and new patients (**b**). Data are mean \pm SD. ** p < 0.01, compared with baseline.

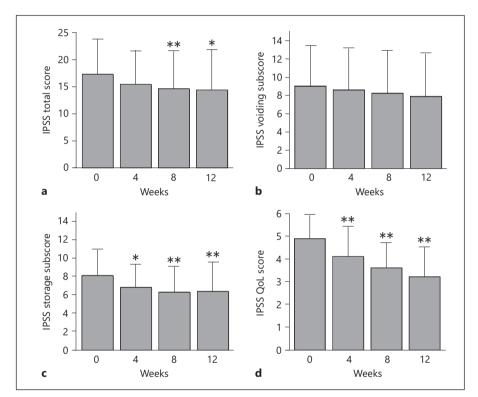


Fig. 2. Effect of tadalafil on IPSS total score (**a**), IPSS voiding subscore (**b**), IPSS storage subscore (**c**), and IPSS QoL score (**d**) in all patients. Data are mean \pm SD. * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, compared with baseline.

1 discontinued treatment due to muscle pain before the first assessment at week 4. Altogether, 29 patients (94%) were subjected to the analysis of efficacy (all patients). Of these, 10 were changed to tadalafil from α 1-blockers (6 on silodosin, 3 on tamsulosin, and 1 on naftopidil), and 19 had not had any previous treatment (new patients) and were analyzed separately.

Effect of Tadalafil on Nocturnal Micturition

A significant reduction in nocturnal micturition was observed at week 4 and continued throughout the treatment period, both overall and in the new patients (Fig. 1). Over-

all, the number of nocturnal micturitions decreased significantly from 3.1 \pm 1.2 at baseline to 2.7 \pm 1.3 (p < 0.01), 2.6 \pm 1.2 (p < 0.01), and 2.5 \pm 1.4 (p < 0.01) at 4, 8, and 12 weeks after treatment, respectively. In new patients, the number of nocturnal micturitions before tadalafil treatment was 3.1 \pm 1.1, and this decreased significantly to 2.4 \pm 1.1 (p < 0.01), 2.4 \pm 1.1 (p < 0.01), and 2.1 \pm 1.3 (p < 0.01) at 4, 8, and 12 weeks after treatment, respectively.

Effect of Tadalafil on LUTS in Patients with Nocturia Overall, the IPSS storage subscore and IPSS-QoL score were significantly improved at week 4 and con-

Table 2. Effect of tadalafil on N-QoL in all patients

		Before	Week 4	Week 8	Week 12
Total	score of N-QoL	69.2±15.7	71.0±20.9	68.4±19.5	72.5±18.5
-	energy	76.9±13.7	74.2±20.4	74.5±19.6	79.5±16.4
Q1 Q2	Concentration Low energy	0.6±0.7 0.8±0.8	0.9±0.9 0.9±1.0	0.9±0.9 1.0±0.8	0.9±0.7 0.9±0.8
Q3	Sleep during the day	1.3 ± 1.0	1.2±1.2	1.1±1.0	1.1±0.9
Q4	Productiveness	0.5 ± 0.7	0.9 ± 0.9	0.8 ± 0.9	0.5 ± 0.6
Q5	Physical activities	0.5 ± 0.7	0.8 ± 1.1	1.1±1.1	0.6 ± 0.9
Q7	Inadequate sleep at night	2.1±1.1	1.7±1.2	1.4±1.0*	0.9±1.0**
Bothe	er/concern	61.5±21.4	67.9±23.8	62.2±21.8	65.5±21.7
Q6	Fluid restriction	0.9 ± 0.9	0.9 ± 1.0	1.1±0.9	0.9 ± 0.9
Q8	Disturbance of others	1.5 ± 2.0	1.4 ± 2.0	1.6 ± 2.2	1.4 ± 2.4
Q9	Preoccupation with waking at night	0.9 ± 1.0	0.8 ± 0.9	0.9 ± 0.9	0.9 ± 1.1
Q10	Worry over condition worsening	1.9±1.1	1.5 ± 1.2	1.9 ± 1.0	1.6±1.1
Q11	Worried over treatment options	1.9 ± 1.1	1.5 ± 1.2	1.8 ± 1.1	1.6 ± 1.0
Q12	Overall bother	2.3 ± 1.1	$1.7 \pm 1.0*$	1.9±0.9	1.9±0.9*
Q13	Overall impact on everyday life	3.8±2.1	3.9±2.6	3.8±2.6	3.3 ± 2.4

Data are mean \pm SD. * p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01, as compared with baseline.

tinued to improve throughout the treatment period (Fig. 2c, d). However, the IPSS voiding subscore gradually decreased but did not change significantly throughout the treatment period (Fig. 2b). In new patients, the effects of tadalafil on the IPSS total scores and subscores were almost the same as the effect overall (data not shown).

 Q_{max} (at baseline: 12.1 ± 6.5 mL/s; at week $12:12.3\pm7.3$ mL/ms) and postvoid residual urine volume (PVR) (at baseline: 58.5 ± 52.2 mL; at week $12:37.8\pm24.4$ mL) improved numerically but did not change significantly with tadalafil treatment (data not shown). The IIEF5 total score (at baseline: 8.1 ± 6.0 mL/s; at week $12:8.2\pm7.4$ mL/ms) did not change throughout the treatment (data not shown).

Effect of Tadalafil on Nocturia-Related QoL

Overall, the N-QoL total score and 2 domain scores (sleep/energy and bother/concern) did not improve significantly during the 12-week treatment with tadalafil. However, the N-QoL Q7 score (inadequate sleep at night) improved significantly at 8 (p < 0.05) and 12 (p < 0.01) weeks. In addition, the N-QoL Q12 score (overall bother) improved significantly at 4 (p < 0.05) and 12 (p < 0.05) weeks after the treatment with tadalafil (Table 2).

In new patients, the N-QoL total score improved significantly at week 12 (p < 0.05). The N-QoL Q7 score (inadequate sleep at night) improved significantly at 4 (p <

0.01), 8 (p < 0.01), and 12 (p < 0.01) weeks, and the N-QoL Q12 score (overall bother) improved significantly at 8 (p < 0.05) and 12 (p < 0.05) weeks. In addition, the N-QoL Q3 score (sleep during the day) at week 8 (p < 0.05) and the N-QoL Q13 score (overall impact on everyday life) at week 12 (p < 0.05) also improved significantly after the treatment with tadalafil (Table 3).

Effect of Tadalafil on FVC Parameters

FVCs were obtained from 26 patients. Hours of undisturbed sleep (HUS) improved significantly after treatment with tadalafil, both overall and in new patients (Table 4). Urine volume voided/voiding at night improved numerically, but no significant difference was observed. Other factors, including the daytime, nocturnal, and 24-h urine volumes and the nocturnal polyuria index (NPi, i.e., nocturnal urine volume/24-h urine output) did not change significantly after the treatment with tadalafil (Table 4).

Safety and Tolerability

Headache was the most common AE (n = 2). Dizziness (n = 1), dyspepsia (n = 1), itching (n = 1), muscle pain (n = 1), and general fatigue (n = 1) were also observed. Discontinuation due to AEs occurred in 7 patients (2 cases of headache and 1 case each of dizziness, dyspepsia, itching, muscle pain, and general fatigue). However, there were no clinically severe AEs.

Table 3. Effect of tadalafil on N-QoL in new patients

		Before	Week 4	Week 8	Week 12
Total	score of N-QoL	65.6±15.0	69.8±22.4	70.4±22.4	74.0±19.1*
Sleep	energy	74.7±12.7	76.0±22.2	77.9±21.8	82.1±15.8
Q1	Concentration	0.7 ± 0.7	0.9 ± 1.0	0.8 ± 1.0	0.8 ± 0.7
Q2	Low energy	0.9 ± 0.8	0.8 ± 1.0	1.0 ± 0.9	0.9 ± 0.8
Q3	Sleep during the day	1.4 ± 1.0	1.2±1.3	0.9 ± 1.0 *	1.0 ± 0.9
Q4	Productiveness	0.4 ± 0.6	0.8 ± 0.9	0.7 ± 1.0	0.4 ± 0.5
Q5	Physical activities	0.3 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 1.0	0.7 ± 1.1	0.4 ± 0.7
Q7	Inadequate sleep at night	2.3±0.6	1.5±1.2**	1.2±0.9**	0.8±1.0**
Bothe	r/concern	56.6±20.8	63.5±24.6	62.9±25.0	65.8±23.4
Q6	Fluid restriction	1.1 ± 1.0	0.9 ± 1.0	1.1±0.9	0.9 ± 0.9
Q8	Disturbance of others	2.0 ± 2.3	1.8 ± 2.4	2.0 ± 2.6	1.6 ± 2.7
Q9	Preoccupation with waking at night	0.9 ± 1.0	1.0 ± 0.9	1.0 ± 1.0	1.2 ± 1.2
Q10	Worry over condition worsening	2.1 ± 1.0	1.6±1.3	1.7 ± 1.1	1.4 ± 1.1
Q11	Worried over treatment options	1.9±1.0	1.7 ± 1.2	1.6±1.2	1.4 ± 1.0
Q12	Overall bother	2.4 ± 1.0	1.8 ± 1.0	1.7±1.0*	1.7±0.9*
Q13	Overall impact on everyday life	4.5±1.9	4.1±2.4	3.8±2.6	3.1±2.3*

Data are mean \pm SD. * p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01, compared with baseline.

Table 4. Effect of tadalafil on FVC variables in all patients and new patients

	Before	Week 12	p value
All patients			
HUS, min	149±61	189±80**	0.005
Urine volume voided/voiding at night, mL	191±80	208±70	0.13
Daytime urine volume, mL	1,103±485	1,020±520	0.20
Nocturnal urine volume, mL	676±243	664±271	0.43
24-hr urine volume, mL	1,782±531	1,695±670	0.17
NPi, %	38±12	39±14	0.81
New patients			
HUS, min	165±64	216±80**	0.006
Urine volume voided/voiding at night, mL	189±91	220±78	0.17
Daytime urine volume, mL	1,117±531	1,120±580	0.71
Nocturnal urine volume, mL	608±208	629±278	0.70
24-hr urine volume, mL	1,735±619	1,764±767	0.67
NPi, %	35±10	35±13	0.35

Data are mean \pm SD. ** p < 0.01, as compared with baseline. HUS, hours of undisturbed sleep; NPi, nocturnal polyuria index.

Discussion

This prospective, multicenter clinical study examined the efficacy of tadalafil 5 mg once daily on nocturia in BPH patients. Our results indicate that (1) nocturia improved significantly after 4 weeks of treatment with tadalafil and was maintained for the 12-week treatment period, (2) total N-QoL score in new patients and several

N-QoL items (inadequate sleep at night and overall bother) overall improved significantly, and (3) HUS were prolonged significantly after the treatment.

Nocturia improved significantly from baseline to week 12 after treatment with tadalafil. This finding is consistent with previous studies on tadalafil 5 mg [7, 8]. The magnitude of improvement from baseline to the end point (IPSS Q7: –0.6) and the onset of improve-

ment (at week 4) were similar to those of other tadalafil studies [7, 8].

We attempted to evaluate the changes in nocturia-related QoL using the N-QoL questionnaire, which has been confirmed to be a useful tool for the evaluation of nocturia in Japanese patients [14]. The N-QoL Q7 score (inadequate sleep at night) and N-QoL Q12 score (overall bother) improved significantly after treatment with tadalafil (Tables 2, 3). This is possibly the first study showing the positive effects of tadalafil on nocturia-related QoL. No significant improvement was observed in the overall total N-QoL score (Table 2). However, in new patients, the total N-QoL score improved significantly at week 12 (Table 3). In addition, other items in the N-QoL scores (Q3: sleep during the day, Q13: overall impact on everyday life) improved significantly in new patients (Table 3). These results indicate that treatment with tadalafil improves not only nocturia but also the nocturia-related QoL, suggesting that tadalafil could be a clinically meaningful treatment for patients with nocturia. The findings also suggest that the improvement in QoL was better for new patients than for those who changed to tadalafil from another medication.

We also evaluated FVCs and explored the pathophysiology of the tadalafil-induced improvement on nocturia. As shown in Table 4, HUS, which are considered to be one of the key factors for nocturia-related QoL [15, 16], improved significantly both overall and in new patients, and this is one of the most important reasons for improvements in nocturia-related QoL with tadarafil treatment (Table 2, 3). We also anticipated that urine volume voided/voiding at night or nocturnal urine volume would change before and after treatment with tadalafil. Unfortunately, neither factor changed significantly after treatment with tadalafil (Table 4). However, as shown in Figure 2c, the IPSS storage subscore and urgency symptom (IPSS Q4: data not shown) improved significantly, and although the urine volume voided/voiding at night did not show a significant improvement, it did show a numerical improvement (Table 4). Based on these results, we speculate that the combined effects of these findings might explain the improvement of nocturia after treatment with tadalafil. In addition, although the major mechanism of action of tadalafil is the relaxation of the bladder outlet, other mechanisms including increased pelvic blood flow, modulation of the afferent nerves, and an anti-inflammatory effect have also been reported [3, 4]. This wide variety of mechanisms might be useful for the improvement of nocturia and nocturia-related QoL after treatment with tadalafil.

The IPSS voiding subscore (Fig. 2b) and IIEF score (data not shown) did not improve significantly after treatment

with tadalafil, and this is not consistent with previous studies [5, 6, 17-20]. The precise reason for this discrepancy was not clear, but the patients included in our study were considerably older (mean age 74 years) and their IPSS voiding score (8.9 ± 4.4) and IIEF5 score (8.1 ± 6.0) before treatment were relatively lower than those in previous studies [17-20]. These factors might have affected our results.

The study had several limitations. First, this was a non-placebo study and the number of patients was small. Therefore, the possibility that the results could have been affected by some placebo effects cannot be excluded and a future study involving a larger number of patients is desirable. Second, nocturia was assessed from the overall night-time voiding frequency based on IPSS Q7, because FVCs were not obtained from all patients. Third, as the treatment period was 12 weeks, the long-term effects of tadalafil still need to be examined. Despite these limitations, we believe that the outcomes are of significance because this prospective study was the first to evaluate FVCs and nocturnal QoL using the N-QoL questionnaire after tadalafil treatment in BPH patients with nocturia.

In conclusion, this study indicated that tadalafil improves nocturia and nocturia-related QoL, suggesting that tadalafil can offer a clinically meaningful treatment option for patients with nocturia.

Acknowledgement

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Statement of Ethics

The study protocol complied with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the ethics committee of Kyushu University Graduate School of Medical Sciences (IRB No. 28-287). All patients provided written informed consent.

Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Author Contributions

All authors contributed equally to data collection and preparation of the manuscript.

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