

Marital Status Stability in a New Ostomate Population

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INTRODUCTION:

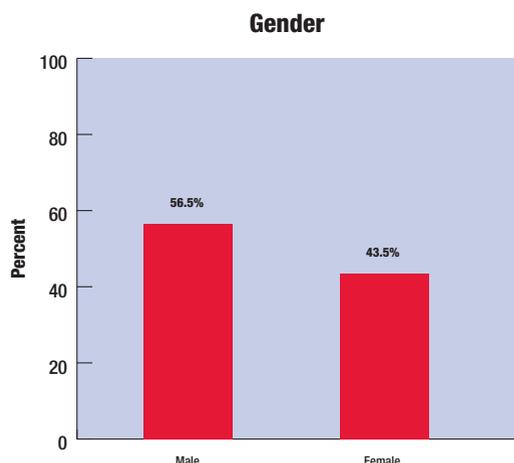
Among the uncertainties for those beginning life with an ostomy is how the surgery will impact their marital relationship. This study investigates the postoperative marital status of a sample of ostomates in North America, the United Kingdom (UK), and Italy who were married at the time of their ostomy surgery and surveyed within 24 months of surgery.

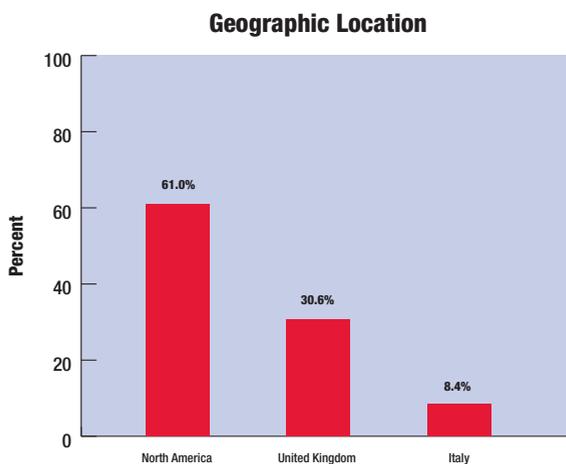
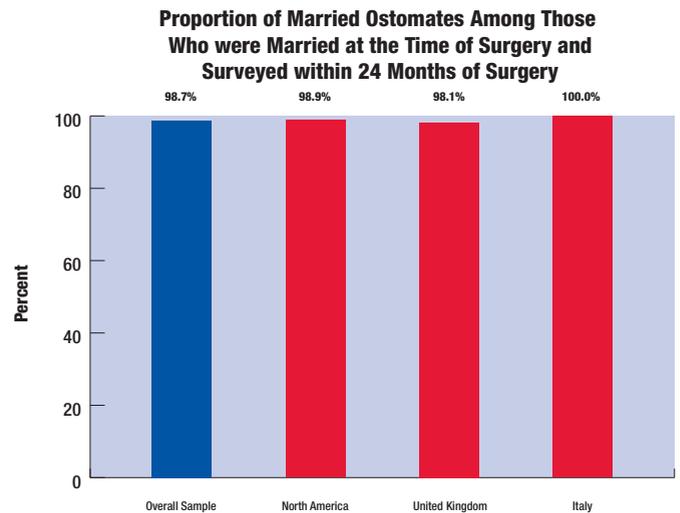
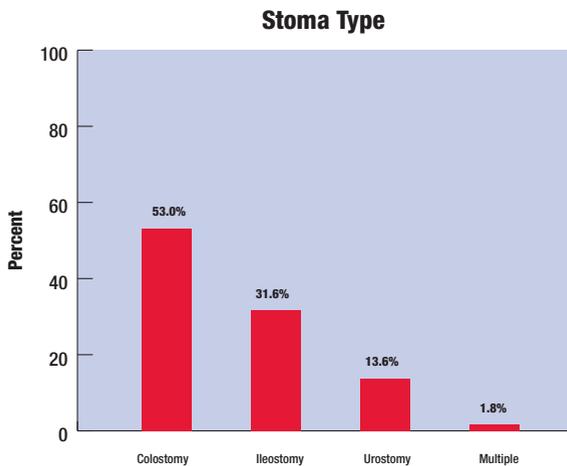
METHODOLOGY:

The prevalence study uses a subset (n=867) of data from the Ostomy Comprehensive Health and Life Assessment (N=4097); a validated and reliable survey distributed in North America, the UK, and Italy. The instrument is a self-reported multi-item survey querying major facets of the lives of persons having undergone ostomy surgery. The subset includes participants who reported being married at the time of their ostomy surgery and completed the survey within 24 months of their ostomy surgery.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:

Variable	n	Median	Range	Interquartile Range
Age (years)	840	61	23 to 90	52 to 70
Months after surgery	780	10	0 to 24	7 to 17





RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

Results: Nearly all (98.7%) of those married at the time of their surgery were also married at the time of the survey. No significant difference between males and females was noted (99.2% and 98.1%, respectively [Fisher's exact test, two-tailed, $p=.225$]). Also, no significant cultural/geographical association was noted (Fisher's exact test, two-tailed, $p=.554$).

Financial Assistance/Disclosure

Hollister Incorporated has executed this study.

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CONCLUSIONS:

The results suggest that fear of abandonment within the married population due to ostomy surgery may be unfounded. This conclusion similarly applies to ostomates in North America, the UK, and Italy. Clearly, the data presented do not address the complex issues of causality. A prospective study could provide reliable evidence to mitigate the anxieties of those facing ostomy surgery.

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