

Real-world evidence from a digital health treatment program for female urinary incontinence: Outcomes analysis following user-centered product updates

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Real-world evidence from a digital health treatment program for female urinary incontinence: Outcomes analysis following user-centered product updates

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Abstract

Background: Urinary incontinence affects millions of women with significant health and quality of life impacts. Supervised pelvic floor muscle training is the recommended first-line treatment; however, multiple individual and institutional barriers impede women's access to skilled care. Evidence suggests that digital health solutions are acceptable and may be effective in delivering first-line incontinence treatment, though, these technologies have not yet been leveraged at scale.

Objective: To describe the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program to guide pelvic floor muscle training for urinary incontinence treatment among real-world users.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study of women who initiated device use January 1, 2022—June 30, 2023 included users ≥18 years old with stress, urgency, or mixed incontinence or UDI-6—Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form score ≥33.3 points were included. Users are prescribed a 2.5-minute, twice daily training program guided by an intravaginal, motion-based device that pairs with smartphone application. Data collected by the device/application includes patient-reported demographics and outcomes, adherence, and muscle performance. Symptom improvement was assessed by UDI-6 score change from baseline to most recent score using paired t-tests. Factors associated with meeting UDI-6 minimum clinically important difference were evaluated by regression analysis.

Results: Of 1419 users, 947 met inclusion criteria and provided data for analysis. Mean baseline UDI-6 score was 46.8±19.3; mean UDI-6 score change was 11.3±19.9 (P <0.001). Improvement was reported by 74% (697/947) and similar across age, body mass index, and incontinence subtype. Mean adherence was 89% (12.5±2.1 of 14 possible weekly uses) over 12 weeks; those who used the device 10+ times/week were more likely to achieve symptom improvement.

Conclusions: This study provides real-world evidence to support the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program using a motion-based device. First-line incontinence treatment when implemented using this digital program yields statistically and clinically significant symptom improvements across age and BMI categories and UI subtypes. Clinical Trial: This is a retrospective study that was exempted from review by Western-Copernicus Group Institutional Review Board.

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Original Manuscript

Title: Real-world evidence from a digital health treatment program for female urinary incontinence: Outcomes analysis following user-centered product updates

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Running head (70 characters): A digital health treatment program for urinary incontinence

Keywords: urinary incontinence, digital health, pelvic floor muscle training, real-world evidence

Abstract

Background: Urinary incontinence affects millions of women with significant health and quality of life impacts. Supervised pelvic floor muscle training is the recommended first-line treatment; however, multiple individual and institutional barriers impede women's access to skilled care. Evidence suggests that digital health solutions are acceptable and may be effective in delivering first-line incontinence treatment, though, these technologies have not yet been leveraged at scale.

Objective: The primary objective is to describe the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program to guide pelvic floor muscle training for urinary incontinence treatment among real-world users. Secondary objectives are to evaluate patient engagement following an updated user platform and to identify factors predictive of success.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study of women who initiated device use January 1, 2022—June 30, 2023 included users ≥ 18 years old with stress, urgency, or mixed incontinence or UDI-6—Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form score ≥ 33.3 points were included. Users are prescribed a 2.5-minute, twice daily training program guided by an intravaginal, motion-based device that pairs with smartphone application. Data collected by the device/application includes patient-reported demographics and outcomes, adherence to the twice daily regimen, and pelvic floor muscle performance parameters, including angle change and hold time. Symptom improvement was assessed by UDI-6 score change from baseline to most recent score using paired t-tests. Factors associated with meeting UDI-6 minimum clinically important difference were evaluated by regression analysis.

Results: Of 1419 users, 947 met inclusion criteria and provided data for analysis. Mean baseline UDI-6 score was 46.8 ± 19.3 ; mean UDI-6 score change was 11.3 ± 19.9 ($P < 0.001$). Improvement was reported by 74% (697/947) and similar across age, body mass index, and incontinence subtype. Mean adherence was 89% (12.5 ± 2.1 of 14 possible weekly uses) over 12 weeks; those who used the device 10+ times/week were more likely to achieve symptom improvement. In multivariate logistic regression analysis, baseline incontinence symptom severity and maximum angle change during

pelvic floor muscle contraction were significantly associated with meeting the UDI-6 minimum clinically important difference. Age, BMI, and UI subtype were not associated.

Conclusions: This study provides real-world evidence to support the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program for female urinary incontinence. A digital pelvic floor muscle training program completed with visual guidance from a motion-based device yields significant results when executed 10+ times per week over a period of 12 weeks. The program demonstrates high user engagement with nearly 90% of users adhering to the prescribed training regimen. First-line incontinence treatment when implemented using this digital program leads to statistically and clinically significant symptom improvements across age and BMI categories and incontinence subtypes.

Introduction

Digital health is an umbrella term that refers to the use of information and communications technologies in medicine and other health professions to manage illnesses and health risks and to promote wellness [1]. Examples include telemedicine, remote sensors and monitors, digital health records and data analytics and predictive modeling. Digital health technologies afford the opportunity both to deliver personalized medicine and to scale up effective interventions to meet population health needs, particularly in light of gross healthcare worker shortages [2]. A key feature of digital health technologies is the ability to collect robust real-world data which may be used to drive improvements in product design, promote uptake and adherence, and demonstrate population effectiveness in support of regulatory and reimbursement efforts. Historically overlooked and under-resourced, there is potential for women's health to be revolutionized by digital health by addressing gendered barriers to care, accelerating development of diagnostics and therapeutics, and conveying impacts across the life course in reproductive health, maternal health, sexual health, and menopause care [3].

Pelvic floor disorders and in particular, urinary incontinence (UI) disproportionately affect women. Prevalence estimates indicate that over 60% of women in the US experience UI, with over 28 million women reporting bothersome symptoms [4]. Robust evidence supports pelvic floor muscle training (PFMT) as a first-line intervention for the three predominant UI subtypes – stress, urgency, and mixed UI [5]. Data suggests that 67% of women experience symptom improvement or resolution with PFMT [6]. Despite high UI prevalence and strong evidence to support behavioral interventions for UI, most women are untreated or undertreated for these conditions [7–9]. Healthcare workforce shortages, including a lack of physical therapists skilled in pelvic floor disorders care contribute to these low levels of UI treatment [8]. Evidence suggests that digital health solutions are acceptable and may be effective in delivering first-line UI treatment; however, to date, these technologies have not been leveraged at scale [10–13].

The primary objective of this study is to describe the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program for UI using a motion-based device to guide PFMT for the first line treatment of stress, urgency, and mixed UI among a cohort of real-world users. Secondary objectives are to evaluate patient engagement following an updated user platform and to identify factors predictive of treatment success.

Methods

This is a retrospective cohort study of real-world users of a prescribed digital health treatment program for UI using a motion-based device who initiated treatment between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. All users were included who were ≥ 18 years of age with a UI ICD-10 diagnosis code (N39.3, N39.41, N32.81, N39.46) or, in the absence of any diagnosis code, a baseline Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form (UDI-6) score indicative of symptomatic urinary incontinence (score > 33.3) [14]. Users who provided baseline and at least one follow-up UDI-6 score at or after 4 weeks were included. Users with a non-UI diagnosis were excluded.

The Leva® Pelvic Health System (Axena Health, Inc.) is a prescription medical device commercially available in the United States that combines hardware (intravaginal sensor) and software (smartphone application) to guide PFMT. The hardware component detects the movement produced during pelvic floor muscle (PFM) contraction and relaxation. This information is reflected in real-time via software that gives the user visual feedback about their PFM performance. Training sessions are 2.5 minutes each, and users are instructed to complete these twice daily for a maximum of 14 weekly sessions over a period of 12 weeks. During training, users are directed to lift and squeeze the PFM for a period of 15 seconds, followed by a 15-second guided relaxation period. PFMT data captured by the software includes adherence to the twice daily training program, the maximum angle change associated with each PFM contraction, and the average hold time the PFM contraction is sustained during the training program (maximum 15 seconds).

In addition to PFMT sessions, the product software facilitates user engagement and adherence

in the form of written and video educational content, motivational messaging, symptom tracking via validated questionnaires, and PFM performance monitoring. Users have an opportunity to provide demographic and health information and are prompted to complete the UDI-6 at baseline, 4-, 8-, and 12-weeks. The UDI-6 is a validated survey that assesses the presence and degree of bother of urinary symptoms and is sensitive to symptom change over time; scores range 0-100 points with a score reduction indicating symptom improvement [15]. At 12 weeks, all users are prompted to complete the Patient Global Impression of Improvement (PGI-I), a single-question survey delivered via text message. The PGI-I has been validated for the assessment of UI symptom change [16]. Users are also assigned a designated coach, who, for those who opt in, provides technical and motivational support for a period of 12 weeks. The program is designed to be completed over a 12-week period, though some users continue to use the device and complete the UDI-6 survey beyond 12 weeks. Adverse events were reported via regular text message or phone calls with coaches.

Participants included commercial users who were identified by screening the user database to identify the appropriate ICD-10 code or UDI-6 score threshold. All data was de-identified prior to analysis. Data collected included patient-reported age, body mass index (BMI), race, ethnicity, health information, baseline and follow-up UDI-6 scores, and adverse events. Race and ethnicity were collected to understand if those who used the device were representative of the population in the United States. Device-reported data included adherence (number of uses/week) and PFM performance parameters (angle change during PFM contraction, PFM contraction hold time).

Ethical considerations

This study was exempted from review by Western-Copernicus Group Institutional Review Board. Prior to device utilization, all users provide consent for the capture and storage of their personal and device-related data in a HIPAA-compliant manner. Participants were assigned a 32-character alphanumeric identifier. This de-identified data was extracted from the commercial user database, transmitted securely using an encrypted connection, and stored in an encrypted and

password protected research database. No compensation was provided to participants, as this was a retrospective review of real-world users.

Outcomes Analysis

The primary outcome of effectiveness was evaluated for participants who provided baseline and at least one follow-up UDI-6 survey completed at or after 4-weeks of use. Demographics and other baseline data were summarized and compared with individuals who did not provide follow-up UDI-6 surveys to assess differences between user groups using student's t-tests. Effectiveness was measured in three ways: proportion of users who met the minimum clinically important difference (MCID) on the UDI-6, proportion of users who met the Patient Acceptable Symptom State (PASS) on the UDI-6, and proportion of users who indicated 'very much better,' 'much better,' or 'a little better' on the PGI-I. Symptom improvement was assessed by UDI-6 score change from baseline to the most recently reported score. Paired t-tests were used to assess UDI-6 score change from baseline to follow-up; sub-group analysis by age (18-44 years, 45-64 years, 65+ years), BMI (underweight/ $<18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$, healthy weight/ $18.5\text{-}25.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$, overweight/ $>25.0\text{-}30.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$, obese/ $>30.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$), and UI subtype (stress, mixed, urgency, unspecified) was completed to determine differences across categories. The proportion of participants reaching the minimum clinical important difference (MCID) was calculated by converting the UDI-6 score to a UDI Long Form score, and then evaluating the number reaching a change in score of 11 points or more [17]. The Patient Acceptable Symptom State (PASS) represents the point at which a patient considers themselves well and thus, unlikely to seek additional treatment for their health condition; PASS was evaluated by counting the number of participants who reached the cutoff score identified for the UDI-6 of 37.5 [18].

Adherence to the prescribed PFMT regimen was averaged over 12-weeks and categorized into three groups: 0-4 uses per week, 5-9 uses per week, and 10+ uses per week, with a maximum of 14 weekly uses. A linear mixed model was used to evaluate the impact of maximum angle change with PFM contraction on attainment of UDI-6 MCID. A logistic regression analysis was performed

to assess factors associated with meeting UDI-6 MCID; covariates included age, BMI, baseline UDI-6 score, adherence category, UI subtype, PFM angle change and PFM contraction hold time change. Data analysis was completed using SPSS 28.0.0.1 and R 4.3.2.

Results

Of 1419 users, 947 met inclusion criteria and provided data for analysis (Figure 1). Demographic data and clinical characteristics are summarized in Table 1. Of the 947 included participants, mean age was 51 years, and mean BMI was 28.3 kg/m². Included participants were compared to 224 users who provided baseline UDI-6 data only. Those with complete data and included in the outcomes analysis were older, had a slightly lower BMI, and were more adherent to training (Table 1).

Table 1. A Summary and Comparison of User Demographics and Baseline Characteristics for Those Who Provided Follow-up Urinary Incontinence Outcomes Data and Those Provided Baseline Data Only

| Demographic | Statistics | All participant s n=1246 | Baseline UDI-6 scores only n=224 | Baseline and follow-up UDI-6 scores n=947 | P* |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|-------|
| Age (years) | Mean ±SD | 50.3 ±11.8 | 47.6 ±12.1 | 51 ±11.6 | <.001 |
| Race, n (%) | Asian | 35 (2.8) | 5 (1.7) | 30 (3.2) | .96 |
| | Black | 74 (5.9) | 13 (4.4) | 61 (6.4) | |
| | White | 891 (71.5) | 168 (56.2) | 723 (76.4) | |
| | American Indian/Alaskan Native | 5 (0.4) | 0 (0.0) | 5 (0.5) | |
| | Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 3 (0.2) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (0.3) | |
| | Other | 62 (5.0) | 9 (3.0) | 53 (5.6) | |
| | Unknown | 17 (1.4) | 3 (1.0) | 14 (1.5) | |
| | Not Reported | 159 (12.8) | 101 (33.8) | 58 (6.1) | |
| Ethnicity, n (%) | Hispanic/Latino | 72 (5.8) | 16 (5.4) | 56 (5.9) | .26 |
| | Not Hispanic/Latino | 835 (67.0) | 142 (47.5) | 693 (73.2) | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Not Reported | 339 (27.2) | 141 (47.2) | 198 (21.0) | |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | Mean ±SD | 28.5 ±6.6 | 29.7 ±7.4 | 28.3 ±6.4 | .01 |
| Adherence (weekly uses over 12-weeks) | Median (IQR) | 12.7 (2.8) | 11.7 (4.2) | 12.9 (2.5) | <.001 |
| Childbirth, n (%) | Has Given Birth | 635 (51.0) | 64 (21.4) | 571 (60.3) | .96 |
| | Never Given Birth | 67 (5.4) | 5 (1.7) | 62 (6.6) | |
| | Not reported | 542 (43.5) | 229 (76.6) | 313 (33.1) | |
| Baseline UDI-6 Score | Mean ±SD | 47.0 ±19.8 | 47.9 ±21.8 | 46.8 ±19.3 | .49 |
| Baseline Hold Time (seconds) | Mean ±SD | 6.4 ±3.5 | 6.2 ±3.4 | 6.4 ±3.5 | .39 |
| Baseline Angle Change (degrees) | Mean ±SD | 10.4 ±5.9 | 10.1 ±5.3 | 10.5 ±6.1 | .31 |

UDI-6 = Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form; SD = Standard Deviation; BMI = Body Mass Index

Mean baseline UDI-6 score was 46.8±19.3 points, and mean UDI-6 score change was 11.3±19.9 ($P < 0.001$). Mean time to follow up (time between baseline and most recent UDI-6 follow-up) was 14.6±8.7 weeks (median 12 weeks, IQR 8-26). Improvement in UDI-6 scores was observed across users, regardless of age, BMI, and UI sub-type, and symptom improvement was similar across these categories (Table 2). Evaluation of treatment effectiveness as measured by UDI-6 demonstrated 58.4% (553/947) met the MCID and 60.6% (574/947) met the cutoff for PASS; 74% of users (697/947) experienced improvement by meeting at least one of these measures. Of 651 PGI-I responses, 76% (501/651) reported improvement. Worsening symptoms were reported by 2.7% (18/651).

Table 2. Urinary Incontinence Outcomes from a Single Cohort of Real-World Users: UDI-6 Improvement from Baseline to Follow-up by Age, BMI and UI Subtype

| | | Baseline UDI-6 | Last Reported UDI-6 | UDI-6 Mean Difference | | Positive clinical improvement n (%) | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| n | | mean ± SD | mean ± SD | mean ± SD | P* | | P** |
| Age (years) | | | | | | | |
| 18-44 | 164 | 46.7 ±18.8 | 35.7 ±24.5 | 11.03 ±22.2 | <.001 | 119 (72.6) | .75 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|-----|
| 45-65 | 63 6 | 46.7 ±19.6 | 35.5 ±21.2 | 11.20 ±19.6 | <.001 | 472 (74.2) | |
| 65+ | 12 4 | 47.0 ±19.1 | 34.3 ±21.3 | 12.6 ±18.5 | <.001 | 89 (71.8) | |
| BMI (kg/m ²) | | | | | | | |
| Underweight | 9 | 43.5 ±17.2 | 44.0 ±33.9 | -0.46 ±26.8 | 0.96 | 4 (44.4) | .07 |
| Healthy Weight | 31 6 | 41.7 ±18.5 | 31.7 ±20.5 | 9.91 ±20.0 | <.001 | 233 (73.7) | |
| Overweight | 27 6 | 48.0 ±18.0 | 35.1 ±22.2 | 12.9 ±20.0 | <.001 | 205 (74.3) | |
| Obese | 22 7 | 51.0 ±20.1 | 38.7 ±21.9 | 12.4 ±19.7 | <.001 | 227 (74.2) | |
| UI Subtype | | | | | | | .42 |
| Stress UI | 45 6 | 42.4 ±19.4 | 32.0 ±21.3 | 10.4 ±19.6 | <.001 | 370 (87.7) | |
| Mixed UI | 17 6 | 50.4 ±20.6 | 38.7 ±23.2 | 11.7 ±20.6 | <.001 | 131 (72.8) | |
| Urgency UI | 85 | 46.7 ±19.0 | 36.7 ±20.9 | 9.9 ±19.1 | <.001 | 60 (70.6) | |
| Unspecified UI | 20 7 | 53.3 ±15.5 | 40.0 ±20.6 | 13.3 ±20.1 | <.001 | 136 (64.2) | |

UDI-6 = Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form; BMI = Body Mass Index, UI = Urinary incontinence
 BMI: Underweight <18.5 kg/m², Healthy weight 18.5-25.0 kg/m², Overweight >25.0-30.0 kg/m², Obese >30.0 kg/m²

*Paired t-test results; **Chi-square results

Overall mean adherence for the group who provided baseline and follow-up UDI-6 scores was 89% (12.5±2.1 of 14 possible uses) over 12 weeks. Comparison across adherence categories demonstrated that only those in the 10+ uses per week group reported significant UDI-6 score improvement ($P<.001$); this group was more likely to reach the MCID compared with those who in the 0-4 or 5-9 uses per week groups (Table 3).

Table 3. Urinary Incontinence Outcomes from a Single Cohort of Real-World Users: UDI-6 Change from Baseline to Follow-up by Adherence Category

| Adherence Category | n | Baseline UDI-6 Mean ± SD | UDI-6 at Last Follow-up Mean ± SD | Mean difference ± SD | P | ANOV A |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|
| 0-4 uses per week | 19 | 44.1 ±16.7 | 46.1 ±21.0 | -2.0 ±17.1 | .62 | <.001 |
| 5-9 uses per week | 48 | 48.3 ±22.1 | 44.7 ±21.3 | 3.6 ±17.7 | .17 | |
| 10+ uses per week | 88 0 | 46.8 ±19.2 | 34.8 ±21.6 | 12.0 ±19.9 | <.001 | |

UDI-6 = Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form; SD = Standard Deviation

Overall PFM performance improved. Maximum angle change during PFM contraction, increased from 10.5 ± 6.1 degrees at baseline to 18.4 ± 8.7 at 12-weeks ($P < .001$). Mean PFM contraction hold time increased from 6.4 ± 3.5 seconds at baseline to 10.2 ± 3.2 seconds at 12-weeks ($P < .001$). Among participants who used the device 10 or more times weekly, those who reached the UDI-6 MCID demonstrated significantly greater mean angle change and hold time compared with those who did not (Figure 2). In multivariate logistic regression analysis, UI symptom severity as reported on baseline UDI-6 score and maximum angle change during PFM contraction were significantly associated with meeting the MCID (Table 4). Age, BMI, and UI subtype were not associated.

Table 4. Urinary Incontinence Outcomes from a Single Cohort of Real-World Users: Factors Associated with Meeting UDI-6 Minimum Clinically Important Difference

| Covariates | Adjusted Odds Ratio | 95% Confidence Limits | | P |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Age | 1.0098 | 0.992 2 | 1.027 7 | .28 |
| Body Mass Index | 1.0175 | 0.982 5 | 1.053 8 | .33 |
| Baseline UDI-6 Score | 1.0426 | 1.030 3 | 1.055 2 | <.0001 |
| Adherence (Weekly uses over 12-week program) | 0.9072 | 0.804 1 | 1.023 5 | .11 |
| Baseline Maximum Angle Change with PFM Contraction | 0.9951 | 0.953 7 | 1.038 2 | .82 |
| Follow-up Maximum Angle Change with PFM Contraction | 1.0359 | 1.015 1 | 1.057 0 | .0006 |
| UI Subtype | | | | |
| Urgency UI | Reference | - | - | - |
| Mixed UI | 0.7751 | 0.339 9 | 1.767 2 | .55 |
| Stress UI | 1.1824 | 0.551 8 | 2.533 8 | .67 |
| Unspecified UI | 0.6366 | 0.281 | 1.438 | .28 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | 8 | 1 | |
|--|--|---|---|--|

UDI-6 = Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form; PFM = Pelvic Floor Muscle; UI = Urinary Incontinence

Adverse events included vaginal irritation (2.3%, 3/1419), back pain (1.9%, 27/1419), yeast infection (0.7%, 10/1419) and urinary tract infection (0.6%, 9/1419). No serious adverse events were reported.

Discussion

This study adds real world evidence to support a prescribed digital health treatment program for stress, urgency, and mixed UI using a motion-based device. UI symptom improvement as measured by achieving the UDI-6 MCID was observed in 58.4% of users; 60.6% of users achieved the UDI-6 threshold for PASS, and 74% achieved either MCID or PASS, regardless of age, BMI, childbirth history, or UI sub-type. Participants who adhered to a recommended regimen by completing at least 10 PFMT sessions per week were more likely to achieve MCID compared to those who did not. Additionally, baseline UDI-6 score and device-reported maximum angle change with PFM contraction were associated with achieving the UDI-6 MCID. Device use yields a high safety profile with very few reported adverse events and no serious adverse events.

This study confirms previous findings describing real-world evidence using the same motion-based device, though the larger sample of users enabled more detailed evaluation of findings [13]. In contrast with the prior study, adherence significantly influenced symptom improvement in the current study. Historically, it has been challenging to measure adherence to PFMT, and to date, there is no consensus regarding the ideal frequency and duration of PFMT required to achieve significant UI symptom improvement. However, it is known that increased frequency, intensity, and supervision is more effective [5]. This study demonstrates that a digital PFMT program completed with visual guidance from a motion-based device yields significant results when executed 10+ times per week over a period of 12 weeks. Further, it demonstrates high user engagement and an excellent safety

profile.

PFM performance measured by angle change and contraction hold time improved over time. Established nomenclature defines PFMT as “exercises for improving PFM strength, endurance, power and/or relaxation”[19]. It is possible that this digital PFMT program guided by a motion-based device addresses these multiple components, yielding effective outcomes. Moreover, greater angle change from baseline to follow-up was associated with clinically significant symptom improvement. The contribution of PFM excursion to restoration of the continence mechanism has been previously established [20,21]. The findings of this study suggest that the motion-based mechanism of this digital PFMT program may uniquely drive this component of pelvic floor rehabilitation.

Following software updates to improve the user experience, a greater proportion of users reported key demographic and clinical information [13]. Over 90% of users reported information about age, BMI, and race; 79% and 67% reported ethnicity and pregnancy history, respectively. Adherence was also improved in this study with a greater proportion using the device 10 or more times per week. These improvements in data collection and user engagement followed key updates to the digital PFMT program informed by the evidence describing PFMT adherence and health behavior change, coupled with a user-centered design approach. A growing body of literature underscores the importance of leveraging clinical evidence and human-centered design in the creation of digital health tools [22–24]. These methodologies may continue to be applied to future program iterations to further optimize data capture and patient engagement. This evidence-informed approach can optimize real-world data collection and has the potential to transform population-level pelvic health research.

A key strength of this study includes the large sample who provided baseline and follow-up UI symptom data using multiple validated questionnaires, allowing for greater confidence in study outcomes. The product design enables passive data collection about usage, and thus, provides

important information about PFMT performance in the real world. One limitation of this study is the lack of racial and ethnic diversity, which limits generalizability of these findings. This may be improved through broader insurance coverage, enabling wider patient catchment. In addition, the significant association between adherence and favorable symptom improvement may be influenced by the large number of participants ($n=880$) in the 10+ uses per week category compared to the lower adherence categories. Similarly, the low number of underweight ($\text{BMI} < 18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$) participants ($n=9$) may contribute to the lack of significant findings in this group. Finally, the timing of UDI-6 follow-up varied, with most users reporting UDI-6 scores at 12 weeks. However, the variability in timing tempers conclusions about optimal duration of use and symptom improvement. Future product development will optimize data collection, including both completeness of key clinical information and consistent timing for completion of outcomes surveys. This will facilitate additional research in this context and may lend to predictive modeling to enhance patient selection and further improve UI treatment outcomes with this medical device and digital PFMT program.

Conclusions

This study provides real-world evidence to support the effectiveness and safety of a prescribed digital health treatment program for UI using a motion-based device. First-line UI treatment when implemented using this digital PFMT program yields statistically and clinically significant symptom improvements across age and BMI categories and UI subtypes. Given the high prevalence of UI among women in the US and the gross under-treatment of this condition, interventions that enable first-line treatment at scale are much needed. This represents one avenue to improve access to effective treatment and to address health disparities in UI care, particularly for those in geographic areas that lack specialized pelvic health clinicians or are otherwise unable to engage in in-person treatment due to employment, family, time, financial, or other constraints.

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this research.

Data Availability

The data sets generated during and/or analyzed during this study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

LK, JM, and SP are employees of Axena Health, Inc., the device manufacturer. Their roles are non-commercial and solely focused on clinical research and development. MW receives royalties from Up to Date. EH has no disclosures.

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Figure Legends

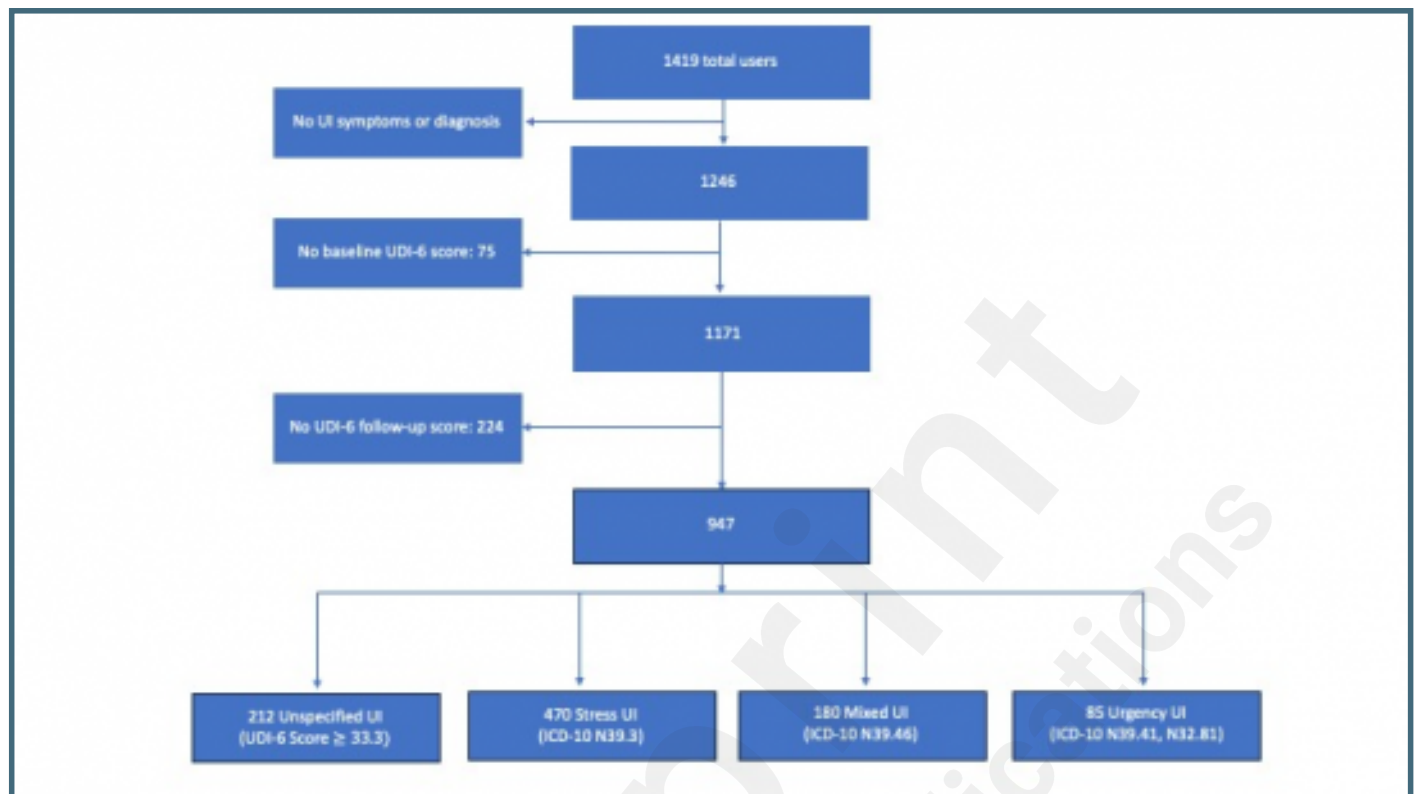
Figure 1. Flow diagram of real-world users of the digital health treatment program for urinary incontinence using a motion-based device included in this analysis.

Figure 2. Maximum angle change with pelvic floor muscle (PFM) contraction depicted over time for individuals who used the device 10+ times per week over 12-weeks, who met and did not meet the minimum clinically important difference (MCID) on the Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form (UDI-6). Individuals who met the MCID demonstrate greater angle change during PFM contraction compared to those who do not, and this difference is evident early in their training and persists over time.

Supplementary Files

Figures

Flow diagram of users included in this analysis.



Maximum angle change with PFM contraction depicted over time for individuals who used the device 10+ times per week over 12-weeks, who met and did not meet the minimum clinically important difference (MCID) on the Urogenital Distress Inventory, Short Form (UDI-6). Individuals who met the MCID demonstrate greater angle change during PFM contraction compared to those who do not, and this difference is evident early in their training and persists over time.

