The guideline on ‘Urinary Incontinence in Women’ published by the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) provides practical advice for the diagnostics and treatment of adult women with complaints of stress incontinence, urgency incontinence and mixed incontinence. The midurethral tape is a medical device, which means that requirements for its market authorisation are less stringent (Gebu 2013; 47: 63-69).

The NHG guideline does not allocate an important place to medicinal therapy, and insofar as drugs are to be considered, these include primarily the urological spasmyotics like tolterodine and oxybutynin. The guideline provides no evidence for the contention that oxybutynin patches are less likely to cause dryness of the mouth. The notes report that the use of oxybutynin is associated with relatively large numbers of adverse effects. These also include relatively serious side-effects, but the latter are not specified. They include visual disturbances, confusion and behavioural disorders, memory defects and oesophageal laesions. 28 A positive feature is that the guideline already mentions the latest drugs, so that the general practitioner is somewhat prepared for the promotional campaigns for these new drugs.

References*


*The literature refers to the Dutch text*