

# Professional liability in Urology in Catalonia (Spain) from 1986 to 2023

136

Vargas-Blasco C<sup>1</sup>, Martin-Fumadó C<sup>1,2</sup>, Pujol-Robinat A<sup>3</sup>, Morales-Ferrero J<sup>1</sup>, Arimany-Manso J<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Physicians of Barcelona <sup>2</sup> Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>3</sup> Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

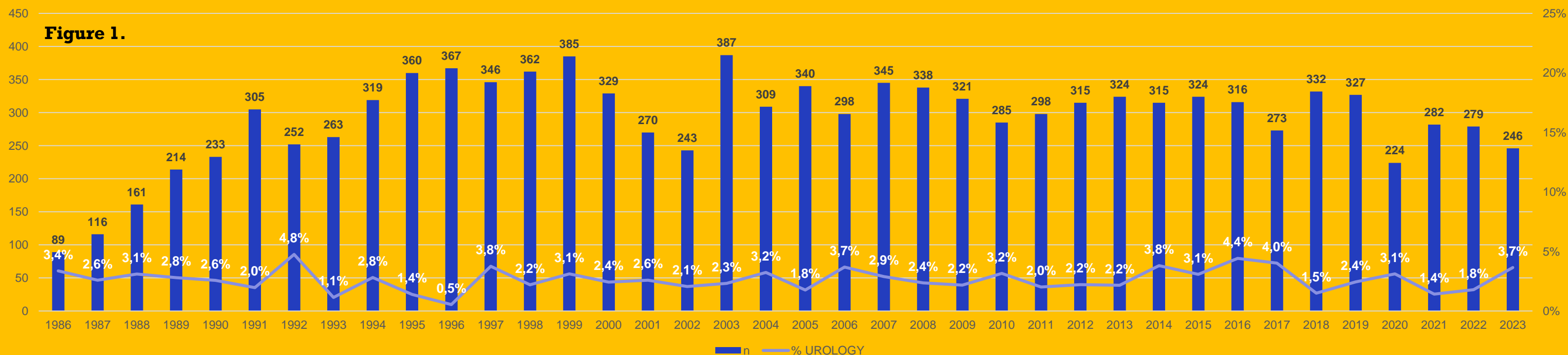
www.comb.cat

cesar.vargas@med.es

**Introduction.** The knowledge of claims data in Urology and its dissemination among professionals to improve the quality of patient care, reduce the rate of adverse events and the number of professional liability claims has been a necessity in our context and internationally for decades.

**Methods.** The Professional Liability Service of the Council of Medical Associations of Catalonia (CCMC) manages the majority of professional liability policies in Catalonia (more than 26,500 doctors) and has been recording all claims against insured professionals since 1986.

**Results.** Between 1986 and 2023 11,092 claims were identified, of which 288 (2.6%) related to the specialty of Urology (Figure 1), which showed that this specialty has a relatively medium risk of claims, in accordance with previous analysis (currently the ninth most sought-after specialty in our environment). Furthermore, analyses of the annual number of cases during this period showed a stable trend.



In terms of procedures, 37% of complaints were out-of-court, 32% were civil and 31% were criminal (Figure 2). The main reason for complaint (each complaint may have more than one cause of action) was error in surgical practice (31.7%), followed by the existence of sequelae (21.7%) and error or delay in diagnosis (15.8%).

Regarding the existence of professional liability in the cases registered, either by sentence or out-of-court settlement, of the 178 cases closed (55.27%) in the period 1986-2023, professional liability was assumed in 29.8% of the cases (n=53), with an uneven distribution according to the procedure: 18.3% in criminal proceedings, 42.9% in civil proceedings and 30.4% in out-of-court proceedings (Figure 3).

Figure 2.

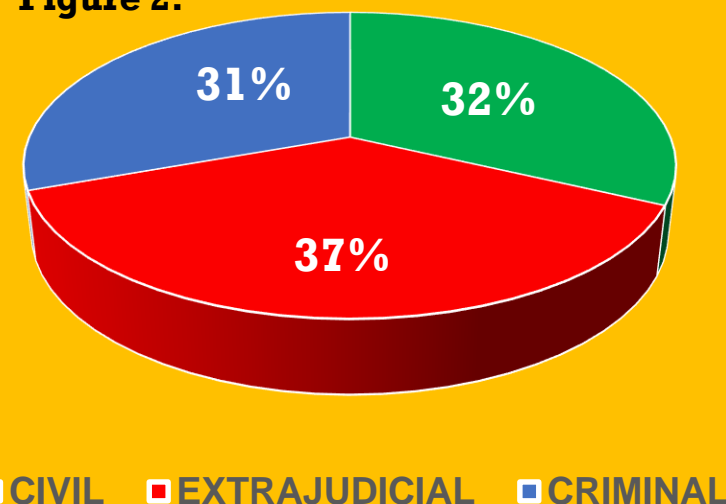
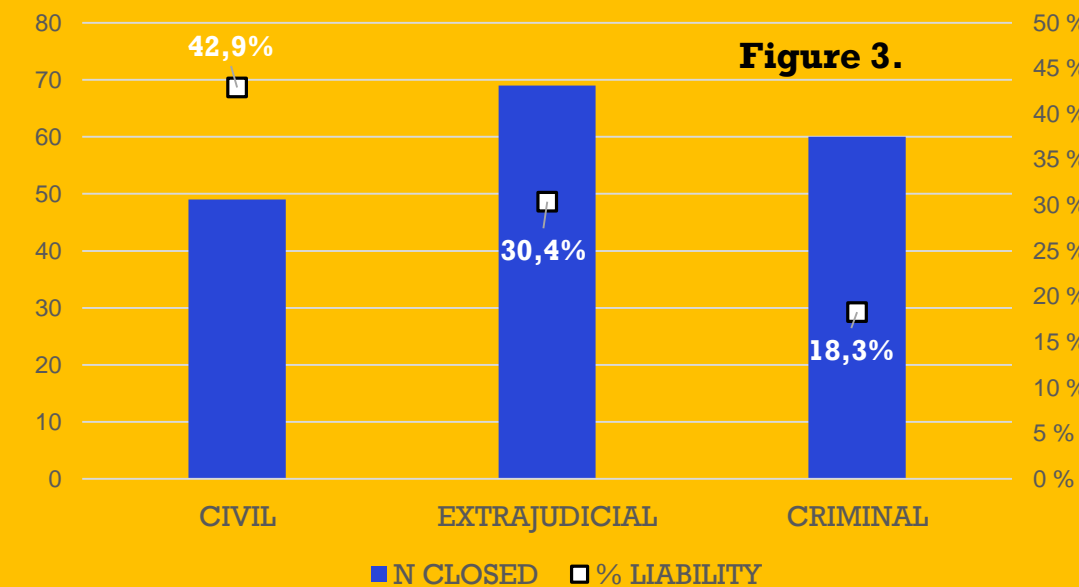


Figure 3.



**Conclusion.** The stability of the claim rate in Urology over the period studied by the CCMC, the current rate of out-of-court claims and the relatively low rate of compensation show that Urology is a specialty with a medium risk of professional liability in our scenario.

**References.** Current state of urologic malpractice in Spain. Vargas-Blasco C, Gómez-Durán EL, Martin-Fumadó C, Arimany-Manso J. Urology. 2015;86(4):845-6.



IALM 2024

May 21-23  
Athens, Greece



Col·legi de Metges  
de Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

Càtedra de Medicina Legal,  
Responsabilitat Professional  
i Seguretat Clínica