

Health-Related Quality of Life Associated with Common Stoma Complications – Peristomal Skin Complications and Leakages Onto Clothes

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Introduction

Despite advancements in the formation of a stoma and care of persons living with a stoma, related complications remain prevalent. Common complications are peristomal skin complications (PSCs) and leakages onto clothes (LOC).

Objectives

PSC and LOC are major issues for people living with a stoma. The purpose of this study was to understand how these stoma complications impact health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in a Swedish ostomy population.

Methods

The study used the time trade-off (TTO) methodology to estimate utilities associated with two stoma-related complications: PSCs and LOCs. The health states represented severity levels of PSCs (mild, moderate, or severe) and frequencies of LOC events (1 per month, 4 per month or 2 per year, and no LOC due to a digital solution). The average utility and decrements of the health state was assessed. When calculating the difference in utility between health states, 5% extreme values were removed. The study was conducted via a web-based survey in a Swedish ostomy population as is required by the Swedish HTA body.

Results

The analysis included 54 persons (53% male, 47% female) living with a stoma in Sweden. More severe health states were associated with a lower level of

utility, ranging from 0.972 for no PSC to 0.712 for severe PSC (Figure 1). The disutility compared to the base case (no PSC health state) was 0.027 (p<0.001), 0.040-0.060 (p<0.001) and 0.124-0.244 (p<0.001) for mild, moderate, and severe PSC respectively. Severe pain, itching and/or burning (PIB) and bleeding skin resulted in significantly lower utilities compared to the base case with no PSC (Figure 2).

More frequent LOC events were associated with a lower level of utility (Figure 3). Compared to the base case (no LOC health state) the study found a significant disutility of 0.053 (p=0.008) for one LOC event per month and 0.101 (p<0.001) for four LOC events per month (Figure 4). The disutility of 0.011 (p=0.281) associated with 2 yearly LOC events was not significantly different. The health state with a digital notification solution that notifies the user before a leakage event happens was associated with a significant utility gain of 0.018 (p=0.004) when compared to the health state with no LOC (Figure 4).

Conclusion

Peristomal skin complications and leakages onto clothes are associated with significant utility decreases. Ostomy care solutions that could reduce peristomal skin complications or keep leakage from reaching the clothes could increase the HRQoL of people living with a stoma.

Figure 1. Average utility for PSC health states

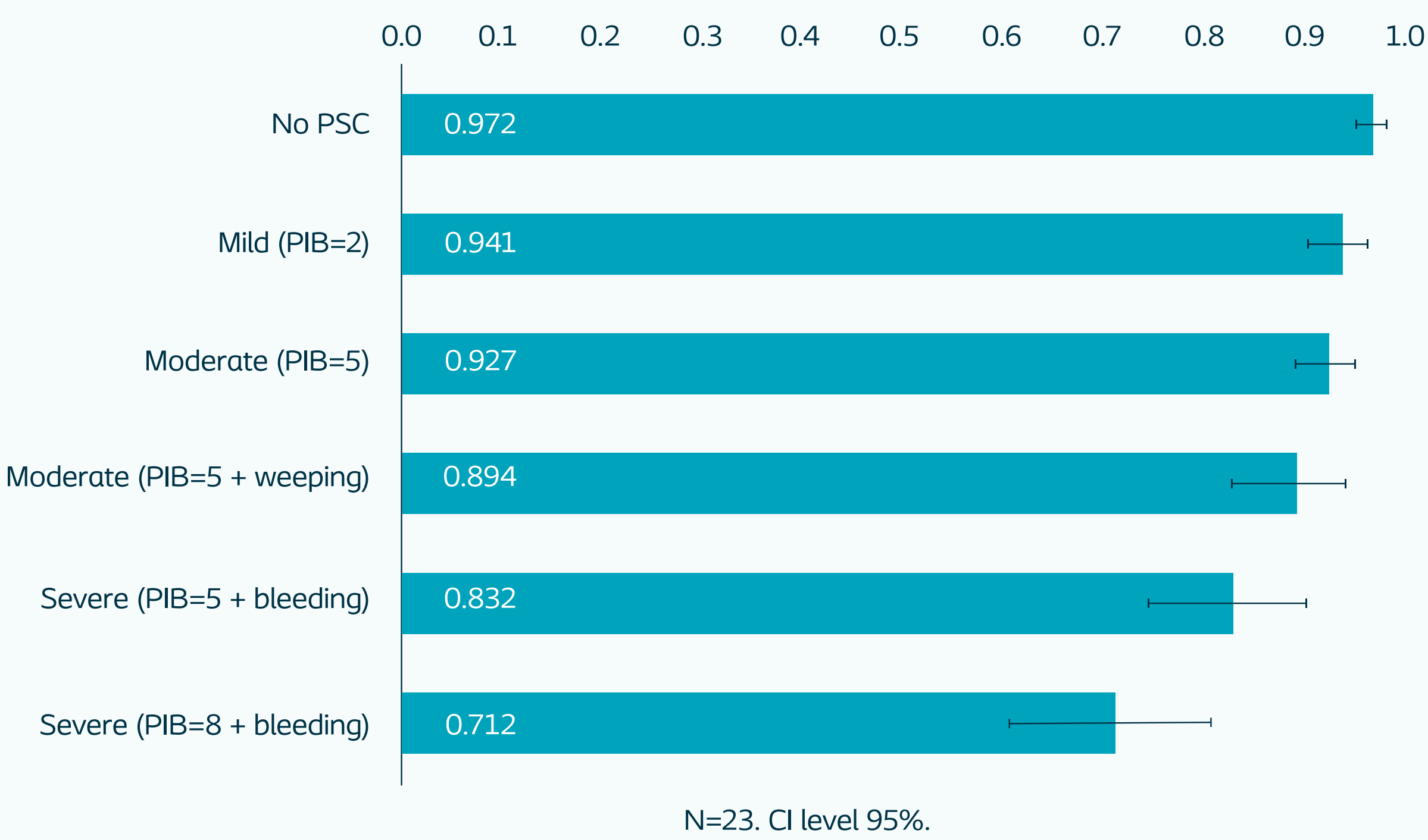


Figure 3. Average utility for LOC health states

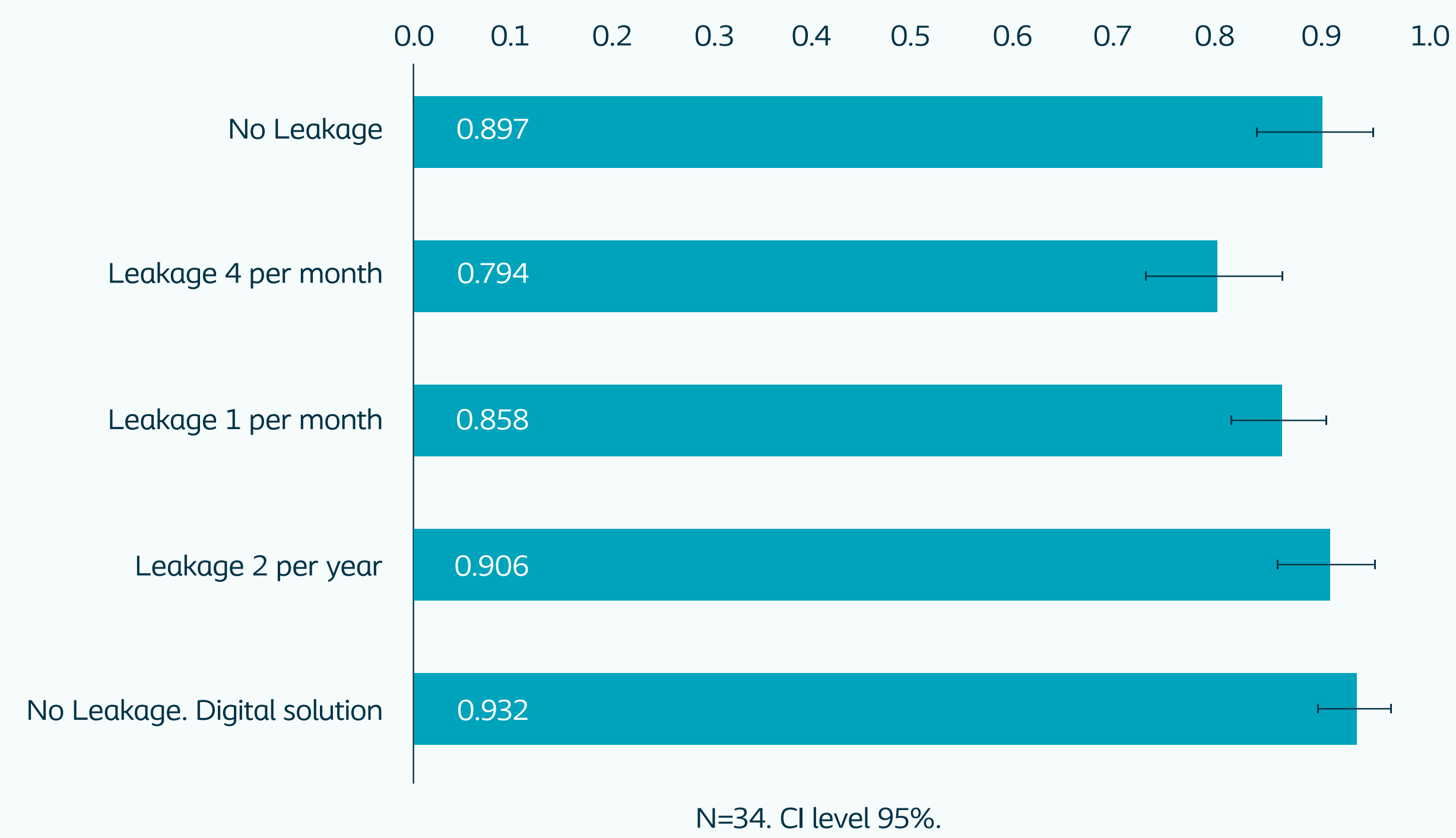


Figure 2. Average disutility of PSC health states when compared to no PSC

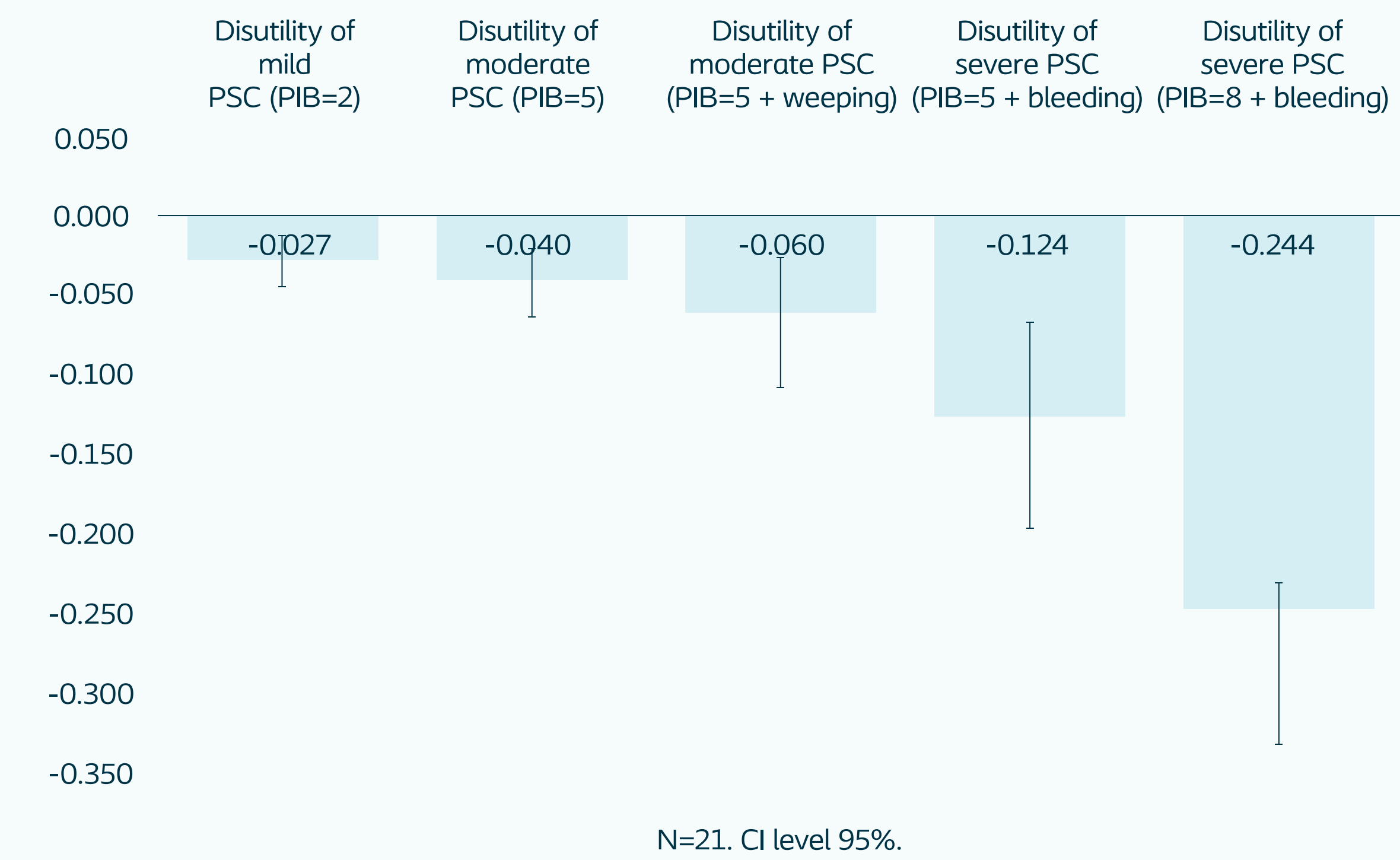


Figure 4. Average disutility of LOC health states when compared to no leakage

