

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents and children with spina bifida**(N = 203)**

Variable	Category	N (%)
<u>Respondents</u>		
Gender	Male	16 (8.0)
	Female	184 (92.0)
Age (years), mean $\pm$ SD (min,max) ^a		39.72 $\pm$ 5.41 (27.0, 54.1)
Highest level of education ^a	Above College or university	133 (61.1)
	High school	64 (31.5)
	Up to middle school	1 (0.5)
Level of economic status ^a	High	1 (0.5)
	Middle	192 (95.5)
	Low	8 (3.9)
<u>Children with spina bifida</u>		
Gender	Male	106 (52.2)
	Female	97 (47.8)
Age (years), mean $\pm$ SD (min,max)		9.33 $\pm$ 4.87 (1, 19)
Age at time of diagnosis (months), mean $\pm$ SD (min,max)		7.00 $\pm$ 18.36 (0, 155)
Age at time of the 1 st operation (months), mean $\pm$ SD (min,max)		8.73 $\pm$ 18.09 (0, 155)
Diagnosis	Meningomyelocele	57 (28.1)
	Lipomeningomyelocele	137 (67.5)
	Tethered cord syndrome	9 (4.4)
VP shunt in situ	Yes	23 (11.3)
	No	180 (88.7)
Mobility	Wheelchair-bound	8 (3.9)
	Use of aid	35 (17.3)
	No aid	160 (78.8)
Method of bladder emptying (multiple choice)	Self-voiding	64 (31.5)
	Clean Intermittent Catheterization	117 (57.6)
	Pad	58 (28.6)
Method of bowel emptying (multiple choice)	Straining/bearing down to empty	113 (55.7)
	Digital stimulator/manual extraction	14 (6.9)
	Medication	19(9.4)
	Transanal irrigation	53(26.1)
	Antegrade continence enema	12(5.9)

^aexcluded nonresponses.