

# Prevalence of sexual dysfunction in women treated by hemodialysis

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## INTRODUCTION

Sexual functioning is a complex process that calls for the intervening of neurological vascular and endocrinal fields. The effects of hemodialysis on sexuality is multifactorial and can have an impact on all the phases of the sexual response . The descriptive data of sexual dysfunction in a hemodialysed women are limited. we performed a survey to assess the prevalence and the consequence of the sexual dysfunction in women having ultimate kidney failure in our hemodiaysis unit.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Forty participants filled in a questionnaire through which we collected information relative to the status of the female patients, but mainly relative to the assessment of the sexual activity before and after the onset of the dialysis and the prevalence of these disorders as well as the analysis of the psychological profile of these patients.

## RESULTS

The mean age of patients was 42 years , the mean duration of dialysis is 18.6 years, 30 % of the patients were menopausal.

While 75 % of the women had a sexual activity of 2 to 3 intercourses per week with 57.5% who were entirely satisfied before the onset of the dialysis, only 35% have kept this character afterwards but with at most one intercourse per week and a satisfaction rate below 10 %.

45 % of the patients reported a noticeable decrease of the sexual desire , whereas a disorder of the arousal is present in 20 % of the cases. Dyspareunia , vaginism and disorders of the orgasm were present in respectively 10%, 5% and 7.5 %.

5 % of the patients have consulted at once for their sexual disorders . 20% of the patients reported disorders of their menstruation cycle.

37.5 % of the women that were sexually active stated they had sexual disorders linked to age, depression syndrome and menopause.

## DISCUSSION

Contrary to the considerable degree of investigation of erectile dysfunction in men , sexual dysfunction in women has not been studied extensively.

The studies that enrolled women with chronic kidney disease (CKD) were identified , and they used different instrument to assess sexual dysfunction. These studies also enrolled cohorts of controls without CKD and found a significantly higher risk of sexual dysfunctions.

The paucity of studies in women with CKD might be caused by the under-recognition of the problem, cultural issues, and difficulties collecting this type of information.

Hemodialysed patients show factors of sexual dysfunctions common to every patient with chronic disease , however being dialysed brings about certain specific causes .These patients often suffer from chronic tiredness combined to anxiety and lack of self esteem that can alter the interest in sexual activity. These various factors lead to a decrease in the libido or even to an inhibition of the orgasmic function.

Studies have assessed the sexual dysfunction in hemodialysed patients estimate that 84 % have shown sexual disorders. The latter has been independently associated to age, depression symptoms, lower education, menopause and diuretic treatment.

## CONCLUSION

Although the definition concerning the sexual dysfunction in women is controversial. This study suggests that most dialysed women have sexual disorders. additional surveys and investigation , mainly the impacts of the symptoms and the life quality of women having sexual dysfunction are now required.

