

Abstract, oral presentation.

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Sexuality and life satisfaction in women with IDDM.

A case-control study in relation to a Swedish Sex Survey

Aim

To compare the impact of sexual functions on life satisfaction in women with IDDM, in not neurologically affected controls, as well as in a broader sample of ordinary women in a Swedish Sex Survey.

Methods

Forty-two women with IDDM and 42 age-matched controls were comprehensively interviewed concerning their sexological situation. Data on the same topic from 742 women in a Swedish population-based survey were used as references.

All women rated their satisfaction with life as a whole and regarding ten domains of life along a six-point scale.

Some data on first sexual experiences and sexual behavior as well as prevalence of sexual problems during the month prior to the interview (IDDM and case-control groups) or in the past year (Sex Survey-group) were analyzed, together with life satisfaction and partnership status.

Results

Women in all three groups had had their first sexual experiences at the same ages. Irregular menstruation and problems with lubrication were significantly more prevalent among the women with IDDM than among the controls. Women with IDDM were significantly less satisfied with contacts with friends and with their physical health. Steady partner relationships were less common among women with IDDM.

Conclusions

Women with IDDM reported more frequent sexual problems, least satisfaction in life concerning physical health as well as their social friendly contacts, in comparison with the reference groups. The sexual disabilities among women with IDDM did not significantly influence their satisfaction with life as a whole or their sexual life.