

10th Congress of the EFS
Porto (), 09/05/2010 - 13/05/2010 Sheraton Hotel

ID PAX: 6972 - ID ABS: 58

Topic: **SEXUAL DYSFUNCTIONS**

Title

FEMALE PREMATURE ORGASM: DOES THIS EXIST?

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Body

Introduction: Female premature orgasm is unknown in scientific literature. In Kaplan & Sadock's Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry, two lines of text are written about this condition, which is classified as a Dysfunction Not Otherwise Specified. Whatever this entity is or not, it's a common topic in internet sexual forums and chats all over the world. How many women are suffering from premature orgasm, which occurs sometimes even before intercourse or just by a little stimulation and with no more interest in continuing the sexual interaction, is unknown. It is also necessary to differentiate from persistent sexual arousal syndrome with which it is sometimes erroneously linked.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to measure the extend of female premature orgasm.

Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out with an analytical component concerning the sexual active female population in between 18-45 years old. A sample of women from general population (n=300) was invited to answer a questionnaire and a second sample of university students were studied (n=500) in an exploratory evaluation. A four criteria questionnaire was used to try to capture the extension and form of the syndrome, a) premature and undesirable orgasm frequency, b) distress with the orgasm, c) duration of the condition and d) circumstances.

Results: According to our results, around 5% of sexual active women comprised all criteria for female premature orgasm.

Conclusion: Studies in large sample sizes are still needed to expand the currently results.

Key Words: female premature orgasm, frequency, measurement

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Topic: **SEXUAL RIGHTS**

Title

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND CONTEXTS

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Body

The communication focuses on sexual violence committed against women and follows from a master dissertation, based on information collected in the National Survey on Gender Violence (Portugal). The survey was commissioned by Comissão para a Cidadania e a Igualdade de Género (Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality), a governmental institution, and developed by CesNova/ SociNova. The communication presents the contexts of violence, whether sexual or of other type, committed against women victimized by sexual violence.

The communication focuses 112 women victimized by sexual violence and the acts of violence they declared. The information collected was subjected to a bivariate statistical analysis.

Women are victims of various types of violence, in addition to acts of sexual violence. One can distinguish the context of sexual violence from the context of other types of violence and two major generations of victims. A younger generation, under 50 years old, victim of what can be considered as less serious sexual violence, such as sexual harassment. A generation of older women, aged 50 or more years, victimized by acts of severe sexual violence, such as forced sexual intercourse, and other types of violence.

Context of violence varies accordingly with the victim's generation. Sexual violence against younger women takes place in public spaces, committed by strangers or peers. Violence against older women occurs at home, perpetrated mostly by victim's partners and parents. Sexual violence practices are an expression of gender distinction between masculinity and "femininity", socially rooted and reproduced.

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ID PAX: 7024 - ID ABS: 246

Topic: **COUPLE AND SEXUALITY**

Title

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN COUPLES WITH INFERTILITY

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Body

Objectives: To characterize subjects with a diagnosis of infertility in terms of individual psychological functioning, and marital adjustment.

Design and method: 80 normal control couples without known fertility problems (NC); 80 couples with an infertility diagnosis pursuing medical treatment (IG) and 40 couples with an infertility diagnosis who are adoption candidates (AG) completed the instruments: Beck Depression Inventory, Coping Styles Questionnaire, Others As Shamer, Experience of Shame Scale, Acceptance and Action Questionnaire, Self-Compassion Scale, Intimacy Dimensions, Female Sexual Function Index, International Index of Erectile Function, Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

Results: IG scored higher than NC and AG in measures of depression, detached/emotional and avoidant coping styles, internal and external shame. No significant differences were found between NC and AG in these variables. In what concerns acceptance, the same pattern is found. IG also tends to be more self-compassionate than AG. No differences between the groups were found in terms of sexual functioning. Dyadic adjustment is higher in the AG. These couples scored higher than NC but no differences were found between them and IG.

Conclusions: Infertile subjects show significant higher scores in psychopathological measures and significant lower scores in more positive/protective psychological functioning measures. Contrary to what is mentioned in literature, there were no significant differences in sexual functioning between the groups. Infertility subjects present higher scores than normal controls in intimacy which suggest that infertility may function as a couples' cohesion factor (e.g. during medical treatment).

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Topic: **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

Title

ANTICIPATION OF THE SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN ADOPTED BY LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES IN A SAMPLE OF PORTUGUESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

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Body

Objective

This study aimed to characterize the beliefs about the sexual development of children adopted by homosexual couples, held by a group of Portuguese university students. As sex is an important predictor of attitudes toward homosexuality, differences according to this variable were also analysed.

Design and method

Using a semi-experimental design, 813 students were confronted with descriptions of a couple interested in adopting a child, identical for all except about the couple's sexual orientation and the child's gender. Next, participants were requested to anticipate the gender identity, gender role behavior and sexual orientation of the adopted child.

Results

Respondents considered that a boy adopted by a lesbian couple had a greater probability of evidencing opposite gender role behavior. Male participants considered that the boy normative gender role behavior was also more at stake if he was adopted by a gay couple. A boy adopted by a gay couple and a girl adopted by a lesbian couple were also thought to have a greater probability of becoming homosexual, than their counterparts of the opposite sex in the same conditions. Female participants did not evidence this belief in the case of gay couples.

Conclusions

These results were discussed taking into account the insights of social identity and gender development theories. Additionally, participants' beliefs were compared with the results of empirical studies about the sexual development of children from gay and lesbian families.

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ID PAX: 7023 - ID ABS: 132

Topic: **SOCIAL SCIENCES & SEXUALITY**

Title

SEXUALITY AND TRANSSEXUALITY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Authors

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Body

Objective: To examine how transsexuals experience their sexuality.

Design and method: A content analysis of in-depth, largely unstructured interviews conducted throughout various encounters over a period of more than two years with male-to-female transsexuals in different phases of their transition processes.

Results: Commonalities and differences in sexual activity, associated themes and motives emerge: (a) among participants, and (b) at different stages of the transition process. Such patterns are identified at the level of the storied body and pleasures, as well as in terms of actual erotic experiences (e.g., pleasure lies not on the “masculine penis” but elsewhere).

Conclusions: A gendered self-identification is closely accompanied by a process of also “genderizing” body, erotic experience, and pleasure.

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ID PAX: 6943 - ID ABS: 8

Topic: **SEXUALITY & EDUCATION**

Title

ACTION-ORIENTED SEXUALITY EDUCATION: A PARTICIPATORY AND DEMOCRATIC DIDACTIC APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT ACTION COMPETENCE

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Body

It is argued that sexuality education must deal with an interdisciplinary context oriented at specific health problems. If we only consider biological knowledge, and students are not given any explanation as to the reasons why problems exist and how we can contribute to solving them, we run the risk of simultaneously contributing to the arousal of concern and the formation of action paralysis among students.

Therefore, a participatory-action-research involving teachers (N=86) and students (N=817) from the 7th to 12th grades in an action-oriented sexuality education project applying the IVAC (investigation-vision-action and change) methodology with the use of information and communication technologies was carried out in fifteen preparatory and secondary schools. The main objectives were to analyse how student action competence regarding sexuality and student participation were developed during this didactic approach. Participatory observation, individual and group interviews, online class diaries, discussion e-forums and materials put online by students were selected as research techniques for data triangulation.

The principal results showed that the students thought creatively to formulate a variety of visions and develop, individually or collectively, reflexive actions which lead to positive changes in their lifestyles and/or living conditions in order to promote positive sexual health.

Consequently, this research reveals more added significance to the Portuguese education community by creating research data that will contribute to increasing the potential of Portuguese schools for future development of democratic discussion regarding sexuality.

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ID PAX: 7034 - ID ABS: 155

Topic: **SOCIAL SCIENCES & SEXUALITY**

Title

IMPROVING PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR LGB PERSONS: CLIENT PERCEPTIONS OF DIVERSITY COMPETENCY FOR PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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Body

Objective: While clinicians are becoming increasingly aware of the need to be competent in terms of cultural and individual diversity, European professional associations have made little progress in establishing guidelines and standards of care, practice and training – contrary to the North American counterparts. The purpose of the present paper is to contribute to the definition of clinician diversity competencies in the perspective of LGB clients. It further aims to encourage the development of standards of care for improving provision of effective treatment for LGB persons within Europe, where mobility of both clients and clinicians is increasing among countries with a variety of political, social and family contexts for these clients.

Design and method: The present study utilizes a qualitative methodological approach, involving the use of focus groups with LGB persons. An interview protocol was developed and focus groups were conducted in a non-clinical setting, after recruitment through LGBT associations.

Results: Content analysis was conducted on the transcripts of the focus groups. Results are presented in light of the individual and cultural competency models developed in the literature, including the dimensions of awareness, knowledge and skills, as well as a focus on the individual client, the relational aspects, and the context of psychotherapy.

Conclusions: This paper defends the foundational role of clinician diversity competency when working with diverse individuals.

(Oral Presentation in Symposium CURRENT TRENDS IN INTERVENTION AND RESEARCH ON LGBT ISSUES)

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ID PAX: 4303 - ID ABS: 303

Topic: **SEXUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY**

Title

HOW DO EMOTIONAL AND RELATIONSHIP FACTORS DETERMINE SEXUAL DESIRE ACCORDING TO GENDER?

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Body

Aim: A notable discrepancy concerning sexual desire in both genders is that sexual desire difficulties are considerably more frequent in women. That difference between genders is not yet well justified. The aim of the present study was to evaluate how emotional, and relationship factors affect sexual desire according to each gender, helping to justify gender differences in sexual desire.

Methods. 205 men and 237 women from the general population answered a set of questionnaires assessing psychopathology, emotions during sexual activity, dyadic adjustment, and frequency of sexual desire. MANCOVAS (demographic variables as covariates) were conducted in order to assess differences between genders and groups of sexual desire (low/high desire).

Results. Findings indicated that women presented higher levels of psychopathology and significantly more emotions of hurt during sexual activity, while men presented more fear and shame in the same context. Moreover, results showed that psychopathology interferes in male and female sexual desire in a very similar way. However, emotions seem to interfere in female and male sexual desire through different paths. Regarding dyadic adjustment, findings indicated that participants with high desire had significantly more dyadic consensus, cohesion, satisfaction, and affection. These findings were independent of gender, suggesting that men and women evaluate their relationship dynamics similarly.

Conclusions. Findings suggest that therapeutic protocols for sexual desire difficulties should attend to dyadic adjustment and emotions during sexual activity, also considering how psychopathology and specific emotions act differently on sexual desire according to gender.

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Topic: **SEXUALITY & EDUCATION**

Title

SEXUALITY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT? – PROCESS EVALUATION OF A DYNAMIC/INTERACTIVE PSYCHOSEXUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Body

Objectives: This study has a twofold aim: 1) process evaluation of a psychosexual promotion program in a school based sample of adolescents; 2) test the proximal impact validity of this program compared both to an expositive strategy and to a non intervention situation.

Design and method: Study conducted in a sample of 105 college students of both sexes and aged 13 years-old, distributed by 3 subgroups: (G1) those who attended the dynamic/ interactive 18-session program "Sexuality: let's talk about it?"; (G2) those who followed the expositive session; (G3) no educational program (control group). The research protocol of the multimethod study included quantitative and qualitative evaluation.

Results: Significant differences were found between the G1, G2 and G3 (control group) in relation to attitudes and beliefs towards sexuality. Conversely, quantitative data shows no significant difference in proximal impact among teenagers enrolled in the dynamic/ interactive program (G1) relative to their colleagues who only benefited from the expositive session (G2).

Conclusions: Even if the use of standard sexual educational programs in school environment is better than doing nothing, it seems as though longer and better structured programs with both a dynamic/interactive and developmental approach, as the one we have used, tend to be better suited to achieve a sustainable (effective) distal impact on the personal structuring of the youngster' sexual identity (in line with data from the process evaluation of our program).

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ID PAX: 6233 - ID ABS: 287

Topic: **SEXUAL DYSFUNCTIONS**

Title

MICROARRAY SCREENING OF ANGIOGENIC GENE ALTERATIONS IN DIABETIC CAVERNOSAL TISSUE

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Body

Objective: Erectile dysfunction (ED) is a common complication of diabetes. Endothelial dysfunction has been implicated in the etiology of diabetic-ED. However, it remains to elucidate which angiogenic molecular mechanisms are deregulated in diabetic corpus cavernosum (CC) contributing to vascular dysfunction. We aim to investigate alterations in cavernosal angiogenic gene expression in a diabetes experimental model.

Methods: Male Wistar rats were divided into 2 groups: diabetic (n=8) and age-matched control groups (n=8). Diabetes was induced by streptozotocin (STZ) injection. To evaluate gene alteration in an early and established stage of diabetes, animals were divided into additional diabetic and age-matched groups, to be sacrificed two-weeks after STZ-injection and at week-8 of diabetes. Penile tissue was harvested and total RNA was isolated. Angiogenic gene expression was analyzed using the Rat Angiogenesis OligoGEArray System (SuperArray, USA).

Results: Preliminary results suggested a reduction in the expression of several genes in cavernosal tissue of early and established diabetic animals. Most of these genes seemed involved regulating apoptosis, oxidative stress, cell proliferation and adhesion. Moreover, genes directly related to the angiogenic process, such as Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor-2 and genes regulating endothelial differentiation were downregulated in the 8-week diabetic group.

Comments: Visual evaluation of microarrays films disclosed that most of angiogenic gene alterations occur in the 8-week diabetic group.

Conclusions: Microarray analysis provided evidence of angiogenic molecules and pathways deregulated in diabetic cavernosal tissue, which might impair vascular and erectile function. Next, we will quantify these alterations, establishing a diabetic-cavernosal angiogenic gene profile, prospecting novel directed-therapies.

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ID PAX: 7046 - ID ABS: 230

Topic: **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS**

Title

SOCIAL REPRESENTATION OF SEX: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPLANATION OF CONDOM USE INCONSISTENCY.

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Body

Objective: Social representations have been indicated as having a potential impact on sex risky behaviors. Our goal was to define the social representation of sex, since it can contextualize the sexual behavior of young adults, among whom HIV/AIDS infection continues to increase.

Method: Two studies were developed to assess social representation of sex. The first study assessed social representation on social grounds. Portuguese journals and magazines with higher circulation were scoped and analyzed by ALCESTE 4.9. The second study, based on central core theory approached the evocations of 1139 Portuguese young adults, over the word sex.

Results: First study pointed out a social representation of sex that doesn't support healthy behaviors. Evocations' results showed a complex social representation of sex, with a central core composed by love and pleasure. Aspects as ISTs and condoms were peripheral and only evocated for 5.7% and 6.2% of the sample, respectively.

Conclusion: The social representation of sex is incongruent with a healthy behavior, and it might be contextualizing and allowing the explanation of the inconsistent condom use among Portuguese young adults, which increases the risk of HIV infection.

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Topic: **SEXUAL DYSFUNCTIONS**

Title

THE ROLE OF COGNITIVE DISTRACTION ON FEMALE ORGASM

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Body

Abstract

Introduction: Distraction or interference in the cognitive processing of erotic stimulus plays an important role in the development of sexual dysfunctions or difficulties (Geer & Fuhr, 1976). In this sense, there are specific automatic thoughts that may interfere with the women's ability to reach orgasm. Nobre & Pinto-Gouveia (2008) concluded that women with orgasmic dysfunction tend to have more thoughts of sexual passivity/control, failure/withdrawal, low self-body image, and lack of erotic thoughts.

Objectives & Hypotheses: The objective of this study is to evaluate negative automatic thoughts presented during sexual activity that may act as cognitive distractors impairing the experience of orgasm in women. We hypothesized that the most common thoughts of women with orgasmic disorders during sexual activity would be linked to body image worries, anticipating failure, and lack of erotic thoughts.

Methods: Participants will be 250 sexually active women over the age of 18, recruited from the general population. Participants will be divided into two sub samples: 1) women with orgasm difficulties and 2) women without orgasm difficulty (according to scores on the orgasmic dimension of the Female Sexual Function Index). Participants will answer to the following measures: automatic thoughts (The Sexual Modes Questionnaire; Nobre & Pinto-Gouveia, 2003); Questionnaire of cognitive distraction (Dove & Wiederman, 2000); and the Female Sexual Function Index (Rosen et al., 2000). Results: Preliminary findings regarding the role of automatic thoughts on the experience of women's orgasm will be presented and implications for treatment will be discussed.

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Topic: **SEXUAL RIGHTS**

Title

SEX WORK AND PLEASURE

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Body

Gat-Portugal is a community organization of People Living with HIV/Aids doing advocacy for adequate HIV treatments and prevention, especially for most at risk groups, like men who have sex with men, sex workers, injecting drug users, migrants and other socially excluded and stigmatized populations. In this exploratory pilot study we want to empower sex workers in their sexual lives, identifying and promoting positive factors in the sexual response and in protective health behaviours, with clients and in their private intimate life. Our wish is to understand how pleasure is experienced and if it is experienced, both physiologically and psychologically, throughout the sexual response cycle.

We have ongoing projects on HIV prevention in community settings where we want to invite population targets (women, men and transgender) to be interviewed on sexuality issues. We will involve Portuguese and foreign sex workers. Using a qualitative method we expect to interview at least 10 sex workers from our contact list (between January and March 2010), in a semi-structured interview and analyse the content of these interviews for identifying positive and negative factors in their sexual lives – both professional and private.

We want to present the preliminary results in the EFS Conference and to reach conclusions for community recommendations on sex work and health policies from within the community itself, involving them from the study design until the process conclusion in drawing implications and disseminating the results among politicians, scholars and sex workers.