Sexuality of hospital patients and their partners: a pilot study

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This pilot study aims to investigate sexual wellbeing, sexual functioning and sexual health care need within four groups of patients with major illness (COPD patients, gynaecological patients, pelvic care patients, and patients with depressive...

Ethical review	Not approved
Status	Will not start
Health condition type	Mood disorders and disturbances NEC
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON31976

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Sexuality of hospital patients and their partners

Condition

- Mood disorders and disturbances NEC
- Genitourinary tract disorders NEC
- Respiratory disorders NEC

Synonym
sexual difficulties, sexual problems

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Maastricht
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: hospital patient, needs assessment, sexual dysfunction, sexuality

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

- Questionnaire for Sexual Behavior (VSG)

- International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF)

- Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI)

Secondary outcome

- Demographical questions

- SF-36

- Relationship satisfaction (MMQ)

- Needs-assessment

Study description

Background summary

Two thirds of the patients with (chronic) illness or handicap (such as spinal cord injury, non-congenital brain damage, spasticity, muscle disease, or spina bifida) are dissatisfied with their sexual life and would appreciate professional help for these sexual problems. Of these patients only 1 in 3 indeed receives professional help. Help for sexual problems was found to increase sexual satisfaction, to improve self-esteem and life satisfaction (Kedde, 2006).
Sexological health care is thus of great importance for patients with chronic illness or handicap. This type of help, however, is often missing in the range of help services for these patients, although they often meet with difficulties in the field of relationship development and sexual functioning, as a result of problems with self-esteem or medication. Moreover, many professionals in the field of chronic illness and handicap experience a taboo regarding this topic and are hesitant to discuss sexuality with their patients. As a result of this professional uncertainty, the patient's quality of life may diminish and - in due time - prolonged use of expensive, but inappropriate health care services

may ensue. It is unknown as yet which type and intensity of care is needed to provide adequate sexual health care to chonically ill and handicapped patients. Recent Dutch research among patients with permanent handicaps or physical limitations (spinal cord laesions, non-congenital brain damage, spasticity, muscle disease, or spina bifida; Kedde, 2006) has shown that men in this group are sexually dysfunctional significantly more often than healthy men with regard to their erectile and orgasmic functioning. About 1 in 20 individuals in this group requests help.
It is not clear to which extent other groups of patients with somatic or psychiatric illness also experience elevated rates of sexual dysfunction and associated need for help.

Study objective

This pilot study aims to investigate sexual wellbeing, sexual functioning and sexual health care need within four groups of patients with major illness (COPD patients, gynaecological patients, pelvic care patients, and patients with depressive disorder) that have the somatic health care system. Furthermore, it aims to gauge the willingness of patients in these departments to participate in future prospective and controlled intervention research in this field.
Because of the potential psychological burden associated with the completion of the questionnaires in this study, this investigation requires approval from the institutional ethics board.

Study design

Observational, cross-sectional, questionnaire study

Study burden and risks

The burden for participant comprises completion of the questionnaire. This is estimated to require 45-60 minutes. No know risks are associated with completion of this questionnaire.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

- age between 18 and 65 years
- first intake was 6 months ago or earlier
- sufficient mastery of the Dutch language
- has given written consent;Specific inclusion criteria per department:
- Psychiatry: patient of outpatient clinic for depressive disorders or hospital psychiatry.
- Pulmonary disease: patient with COPD.
- Gynaecology: patient of general gynaecology outpatient clinic.
- Pelvic Care Center Maastricht: patient of outpatient clinic of urology, colorectal surgery or gynaecology, who has undergone triage through the PCCM project nurse for functional complaints of pelvic floor or bladder.

Exclusion criteria

- oncology patient in final stage
Specific exclusion criteria per department:
- Psychiatry: Patient of geriatric outpatient clinic or memory outpatient clinic
- Gynaecology: Patient visits gynaecology outpatient clinic for pregnancy or fertility problem.

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Uncontrolled
Primary purpose:	Health services research

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Will not start
Enrollment:	400
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Not approved

Date:	17-03-2008
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL21499.068.08