

Sexuality in patients with a limb amputation and their partners: a qualitative study

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Bone and joint injuries
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON34439

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Sexuality and limb amputation

Condition

- Bone and joint injuries
- Miscellaneous and site unspecified neoplasms benign
- Vascular injuries

Synonym

sexual problems, sexual well-being

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: interview, limb amputation, partner, sexuality

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

- a) How does a patient with a limb amputation experience his/her sexuality?
- b) How does the partner of a patient with a limb amputation experience his/her sexuality?

Secondary outcome

Not applicable

Study description

Background summary

Up till now, little research has been done on how patients with a limb amputation and their partner experience their sexuality. This lack of research can be explained by the following reasons:

- since both the patient and the professional caregiver do not talk about sexual problems, there seem to be no signs of sexual dysfunctions that are connected with a limb amputation;
- the fact that professional caregivers do not feel responsible for this part of the treatment; most of the professional caregivers who work with people with a limb amputation believe that the rehabilitation process stops when the patient uses his/her prosthesis successfully;
- the physical functioning of a patient with a limb amputation who is wearing a prosthesis is generally better than the physical functioning of other rehabilitation patients. Because of this, one assumes that there are also no problems with sexual functioning or sexual well-being in patients with a limb amputation.

However, there are indications that a limb amputation can influence the sexual functioning and sexual well-being of both the patient and his/her partner. A diminished feeling of self-esteem, fear for rejection, inadequate coping and role changes are some of the psychosocial adjustments that patients experience

after a limb amputation.

The limited amount of research that has been done on the sexual well-being of amputees, is performed in the United States, Denmark, Japan and Nigeria and is not representative for the Dutch population. Additionally, the results of all these research projects are different. Some researchers report no sexual problems at all, while others report a diminished sexual frequency and less sexual satisfaction in people with a limb amputation.

In this research project we want to study Dutch patients and their partner to explore how they experience their sexual functioning and sexual well-being after the amputation. This qualitative research project with only a small population of patients and partners will serve as input for a larger national quantitative research project.

Study objective

In the past there has been little attention for quality of life, of which sexuality is an important part, in both scientific research and in clinical practice. Nowadays things are changing and talking and thinking about the sexual functioning and sexual well-being of the patient and his/her partner is getting more and more important. This is also the case in the rehabilitation department where questions about sexuality are not avoided anymore. Giving attention to the sexual life of patients is slowly becoming a part of daily clinical practice in the rehabilitation departments. This research project's main aim is to study how patients with a limb amputation experience their sexuality after the amputation. Since the patient's partner plays an important role in how a patient experiences his/her sexual life, the partners are also included in this research project. Partners are often not included in research projects even though one may assume that they also experience some serious changes in their sexual life after a limb amputation.

This qualitative research project will provide input for a much larger, national, quantitative research project.

Study design

The study design is a qualitative exploratory study with convenience sampling. Preparation of the study and data analyses will take place in the Centre for Rehabilitation, location Groningen.

This qualitative study will consist of semi-structured interviews. The interview will last for 30 to 45 minutes, with a maximum of one hour. The patient/partner can decide to quit with the interview at any point in time, no questions asked. The interview will take place at the patient's home, unless the patient and/or the partner prefers another location.

Both patients and partners will be interviewed. It is not necessary that patients and partners are part of the same couple. Patients and partners will be included till we achieve data satisfaction. We expect that data satisfaction will occur after having included 15 to 20 patients and 15 to 20 partners. Patients and partners will be interviewed separately to make it easier to talk about sexuality unhindered. There won't be any intervention of any kind in this research project.

Study burden and risks

There are no risks involved in participating in this study. The burden for both patients and partners is the amount of time they are asked to invest, being one hour maximum for the interview. A sexologist with extensive experience on discussing sexuality (J.E.A. Verschuren) will interview both the patients and the partners.

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

limb amputation
being the partner of a person with a limb amputation

Exclusion criteria

non-limb amputation
no amputation
being under the age of 18

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

Recruitment

NL
Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 11-01-2011

Enrollment: 40

Type: Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 21-12-2010

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)

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	NL33885.042.10