





A Literature Search on The Association Between Genital Infections and Sexual Dysfunction

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1) BACKGROUND - a complex interplay between sexual dysfunction & genital infections



2) OBJECTIVE

This literature search aimed to provide an understanding between a wide range of different genital infections and their respective impacts on sexual function amongst males and females.

3) METHODS

- PubMed + Scopus
- Combination of **MeSH Terms**: Genital Infections, Sexual Dysfunction (in females/male), Painful, Genital Warts, Herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Mycoplasma Genitalium, MGEN, Trichomonas Vaginalis, Bacterial Vaginosis, Candidiasis, STD
- Excluded HIV + AIDS - time series + resources
- **Inclusion Criteria**: Standard Diagnostic Screening tools to measure SD: English, Peer-Reviewed
- **Exclusion Criteria**: Non-English, <10 years old, No full text available

4) FINDINGS

- 1. Terms Used**
 - ↓ Sexual Function
 - ↓ Arousal
 - ↓ Orgasm Rates
 - ↑ Pain
 - ↓ Lubrication
 - Decreased Sexual Satisfaction
 - Negative Feedback Loop
 - ↓ Sexual QoL
 - Measured by standardized questionnaires, Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI)
- 2. Phenomenological Insights**
 - Pain + Discomfort of infection
 - No comment on pain from treatment affecting SD
 - Physical effects of abnormality
 - No research on ↑ SD following treatment of genital infections
 - HIV causing urgent STD?
- 3. Psychosocial Insights**
 - Direct link between SD + genital infections
 - Anxiety, Depression, low self-esteem, negative body image due to symptoms
 - Rejection by sexual partner, hence ↑ shame & guilt → negative cycle
 - More prevalent in women - pressure to have penetrative sex?
 - Partners - impact of not doing preferred sexual act, i.e. avoiding oral sex

5) CONCLUSIONS

- Several genital infections have a significant impact on SD
- Allow robust findings rather than conclusions from singular studies.
- Consistent findings between M/F world wide.

References

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