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SEXUAL FUNCTION IN WOMEN FOLLOWING STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE SURGERY

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Introduction

Sexual function is an important aspect of the human narrative. Sexual dysfunction affects approximately 40% of women in the population, and its prevalence is greater among women with urinary incontinence. There is limited data pertaining to sexual function following pelvic floor surgery, particularly with respect to stress incontinence procedures. Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the impact of stress incontinence surgery on sexual function in this patient group.

Methods

The British Society of Urogynaecology (BSUG) surgical database was used to ascertain which patients had undergone pelvic floor surgery at a single site tertiary unit. Data regarding the type of incontinence surgery and patient demographics were recorded. A pre-existing database of the electronic patient assessment questionnaire – pelvic floor version 18 (ePAQ-PF) was utilized to assess for changes in the sexual function domain for patients who had stress urinary incontinence procedures. The ePAQ-PF questionnaire is a validated patient reported outcome measure, which assesses symptoms in five domains of pelvic floor health including sexual function. The use of the validated questionnaire is routine for women attending urogynaecology clinics in our tertiary unit, hence no new patient recruitment was required.

Results and Conclusions:

Mean values for sexual function domains were calculated for surgical patients, pre and post surgery. The paired t-test is used to compare the scores before and after pelvic floor surgery. Content analysis was also used to analyse the free text comments relating to sexual concerns in order to group these according to themes. Post operative questionnaire analysis is currently ongoing, with preliminary indications showing an improvement in sexual function following stress incontinence surgery.