Factors associated with quality of sexual life among women with HIV and HCV


Background

- Quality of sexual life (SQoL) is a neglected concern in women living with HIV (WHIV) or HCV (WHCV) (1).
- The mortality of HIV has decreased thanks to antiretroviral therapy, and have been higher among women men(2).
- SQoL not only has a relevant impact in people’s wellbeing, but it is also associated with adherence to medication (3).
- It is also related to sexual disorders as decreased libido, anorgasmia and dyspareunia, other struggles are related to stigma, difficulties in finding partner, fear of rejection and other psychological impacts (3).
- Both diseases can be controlled by prevention strategies, effective screening programs and access to treatment (4)(5).

Objective

- Determine relevant sociodemographic and physiological factors associated with SQoL reported by WHIV and WHCV in five different countries.

Results

Sexual dysfunction

WHIV

- Psp: Increase in a partner (β=−13, SE=6.7, p<0.05),
- Hispanic origin (β=−19, SE=6.67, p<0.01),
- Higher satisfaction about health care (β=−13, SE=5.2, p<0.01) was positively associated with sqol.

WHCV

- Psp: Factors positively associated with sqol were:
  - Living with partner (β=−17, SE=6.6, p<0.01),
  - Drug consumption (β=−17, SE=6.6, p<0.01),
  - Heterosexual transmission route (β=−17, SE=6.6, p<0.01),
  - Higher satisfaction about health care (β=−17, SE=6.6, p<0.01),

- Sti: Decrease in stigma was related to:
  - Asian origin (β=−11.4, SE=5.4, p<0.05),
  - Higher satisfaction about health care (β=−14, SE=4.4, p<0.01),

In both populations:

- Older age, and mental health factors (depression, hopeless, anhedonia) was negatively associated with sqol.
- Being worried during intercourse was related with a decrease in sqol.

Analysis

Descriptive analysis

- Linear mixed model random effect: Country

Statistical analysis

- Exploratory variables:
  - Sociodemographic variables
  - Health status
  - Mental health
  - Disease related data

Conclusion

- The most important factors related to quality of sexual life in this study were social and psychological, emphasizing in non-clinical factors, which give us a wide vision about the necessity to assess WHIV and WHCV patients not only clinical analysis but also all determinants, in order to improve their quality of sexual life.

Methods

- Data: Data resulted from the cross sectional study of validation of PROQOL-Sex Life, in Brazil, Canada, Australia, USA and France among positive WHIV and WHCV from December 2017 to December 2018.

Table 1: PROQOL-SexLife dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Mean/SD</th>
<th>List of Variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Psp</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>General satisfaction, importance, pleasure, partner satisfaction, having sexual activity with a partner in last 4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stigma and fear</td>
<td>Sti</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low sexual desire, difficult to get aroused, avoidance sexual relation, fear of rejection, serologic effect, fear of being infected, feeling less desirable, treatment effect on sexual life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft practices</td>
<td>Soft</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sexual dreams, masturbation, oro-vaginal/anal, oral sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual practice</td>
<td>Sp</td>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>Preliminary, vaginal sexual relation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHV</td>
<td>Psp</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>General satisfaction, importance, pleasure, partner satisfaction, having sexual activity with a partner in last 4 weeks</td>
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References:

2. UNAIDS. Global HIV & AIDS statistics — 2018 fact sheet | UNAIDS. UNAIDS. 2018