



PSORIASIS

## EVALUATION OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN PSORIATIC PATIENTS AND THEIR PARTNERS IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

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**Introduction:** Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory dermatosis with significant impact upon patients' quality of life including sexual function. Disease severity, duration, distribution and/or comorbidities were contributing factors. Egyptian studies on this subject are scarce. Religious and cultural aspects specific to our type of population could influence such results, hence population specific assessment is needed.

**Objective:** to evaluate aspects of sexual function among psoriatic patients and partners as compared to healthy controls.

**Patients and Methods:** This study included 220 psoriasis vulgaris patients, their consenting partners (n=197) and 220 comparable healthy controls. Participants completed HADS questionnaire for anxiety and depression, RESQ for self-esteem, DLQI9 for psoriasis effect on sexual life, IIEF and IIEF-5 questionnaires (males) and FSFI (females) for sexual function. Patients were assessed for components of the metabolic syndrome. Blood testosterone and prolactin levels and penile duplex ultrasound were assessed in erectile dysfunction (ED) patients.

**Results:** Frequency of depression, anxiety and low self-esteem were significantly higher in psoriatic patients and partners than in healthy controls with higher females frequencies (p<0.001, p= 0.005, and p<0.001 respectively).

Sexual dysfunction frequency in psoriasis males (19.1%) and females (79.1%) and their partners was significantly higher than in the controls (50.9% and 1.8% respectively), with females being more affected (p<0.001).

Depression and genital affection by psoriasis were independent risk factors for sexual dysfunction in both genders, while clinical severity was an additional risk factor in females.

Domains affected in males were ED (20%), orgasmic dysfunction (25%), desire abnormality (23%), dissatisfaction by the intercourse (21%) and an overall dissatisfaction in the remainder.





ED was psychogenic in 87.7% of patients, vascular in 4.8% and mixed in the remaining 9.5%.

Conclusions: Sexual dysfunction, psychological disturbances and impaired quality of life are more frequent in psoriatic patients and partners of both genders with higher female suffering.

