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Title: Assessment of the Impact of Urogenital prolapse on Sexual Dysfunction

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<AT>Assessment of the Impact of Urogenital prolapse on Sexual Dysfunction
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<ABS-HEAD>Highlights ► It is generally the symptoms associated with prolapse (e.g. bladder, bowel and sexual dysfunction) that motivate women to seek medical help. ► Women with urinary incontinence/pelvic organ prolapse are more likely to restrict sexual activity for fear of incontinence. ► Because sexual function is so complex, the physical changes consequent to surgery might not address the issues contributing to sexual dysfunction preoperatively.

<ABS-HEAD>Abstract

<ABS-P>Sexual dysfunction is one of the symptoms that motivates women to seek medical help in the management of urogenital prolapse. Conservative or surgical interventions may be offered to treat the prolapse but the question remains as to whether treatment restores sexual function (SF). This article briefly discusses the assessment of SF in women with a urogenital prolapse and reviews the effect of therapeutic interventions on SF.

<KWD>Keywords: Pelvic organ prolapse; Sexual function; Conservative management; Assessment; Surgical repair of prolapse

Introduction

Pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is a very common condition, particularly among older women. It is estimated that 50% of women who have children will experience some form of prolapse in later life, but because many women do not seek help the prevalence is unknown [1]. It is generally the symptoms associated with prolapse, such as bladder, bowel and sexual dysfunction, that motivate women to seek medical help and prolapse accounts for 20% of women on the waiting list for gynaecological surgery [2].

Sexual health is defined as 'a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity' [3]. Prevalence studies report that up to 64% of women attending urogynaecology clinics report some form of sexual dysfunction [4] and urogenital prolapse is more likely than urinary incontinence to result in sexual inactivity and to be perceived as affecting sexual relations [5]

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