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SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION AMONG MALE PATIENTS ON ANTIDEPRESSANT THERAPY

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Introduction: Sexual dysfunction is common among individuals with major depressive disorder but not optimally treated often.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine difference in sexual dysfunction among male patients on antidepressant therapy.

Methods: Study group consisted of 69 male outpatients who met DSM IV criteria for Major depressive disorder; aged 21-65 (mean 46.3 years). Study excluded patients: with a previous history of sexual dysfunction, somatic diseases, other psychiatric comorbid condition. They did not use medication able to cause sexual dysfunction unless antidepressants or medications to improve erectile dysfunction. The ASEX and HDRS scales were applied at a single interview.

Results: The prevalence of sexual dysfunction observed was 66% patients, 57, 7% in group under 50 and 74, 3% in group being 50 years old or older.

Sexual dysfunction, revealed by a high score on the ASEX scale (mean overall score of 26.9) was in group of patient over 50 years old. ($p < 0, 01$). There are no statistical, significant differences in the points obtained on the HDRS scores in both groups. ($p < 0.01$).

Sexual dysfunction were reported more frequently in patients taking TCA ($p < 0.005$) or SSRIs ($p < 0.001$) compared to patients treated with mirtazapine.

The use of TCA is associated with loss of libido and erectile dysfunction, SSRIs with delayed ejaculation as well as impairment of libido and arousal.

Conclusions: Frequency of sexual dysfunction is higher in patients over 50 years. The less impact on sexual function have mirtazapine.