

SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW: WHAT ARE THE EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN WOMEN WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES?

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Background:

Many studies have looked at Male sexual dysfunction and sexual dysfunction in Females with type 1 diabetes, however there is limited evidence to show female sexual dysfunction in women with type 2 diabetes, independent risk factors that increase the likelihood of women with type 2 diabetes developing sexual dysfunction and the experiences of these women.

Aim:

To perform a systematic review with the question What are the experiences of sexual dysfunction in women with type 2 diabetes?

Method:

A systematic literature review was carried out in April 2021 using data bases, Cinhal, medline and pubmed. 300 articles were reduced to 5 for critical appraisal; articles meeting the criteria were critically appraised using the critical appraisal skills program (CASP) cohort study and qualitative study appraisal tools. Due to the heterogeneity of the studies a narrative synthesis approach was used.

Result:

Female sexual dysfunction (FSD) was high in those participants with type 2 diabetes, in studies where there was a control arm women with type 2 diabetes had higher incidences of FSD than those without diabetes. There were some characteristics which correlated with increased sexual dysfunction in some but not all studies such as duration of diabetes, age, Body mass index (BMI) was not significant in 2 studies and yet 2 other studies did find significance. Inconclusive evidence around factors affecting the FSD and further research is needed in this area. No qualitative research was found looking at the experiences of women with FSD.

Conclusion:

The question in the aim was yet to be fully answered. It is clear that women with diabetes experience FSD but what impact this may have on their lives has not been investigated in the included studies. Studies have mainly focused on the presence of FSD and have highlighted a need further qualitative research in the area.