

The expression of body image, sexuality and depression after gynaecological cancer treated with hysterectomy.

Samico, S. & Guerra, M. P.

Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Introduction and aims: A sample group of Portuguese women submitted to hysterectomies, self-image, sexuality perception and depression was evaluated. The existing relation between these variables was also analysed.

Methods: 30 women between 28 and 62 years of age submitted to hysterectomy were considered. Data was collected in a hospital setting. The BIS (Body Image Scale – Portuguese version), the SDS (Zung’s Self-Rating Depression Scale, Portuguese version) and the FSFI (The Female Sexual Function Index – Portuguese version) were used. Besides the descriptive statistic, it was used the coefficient of Pearson’s correlation to analyse the associations.

Results: Concerning self-image, 36,7% of the patients felt significant differences. Regarding the sexual activity satisfaction, 13,3% had no sexual activity since the appearance of the disease and 20% didn’t have sexual relations in the previous month. Nevertheless, only 23,3% were very unsatisfied with their sexual activity; on the other hand, 30% confirmed being very or moderately satisfied in this aspect. The prevalence of depression was of 70%. A moderate correlation with statistical significance was present between BIS and FSFI, as well as between BIS and SDS.

Conclusions: Body image is affected by this surgery. The correlation observed between BIS and FSFI suggests that having the perception of a worse body image may impair sexual life. Psychological intervention should highlight the management depression, the improvement of body image, including a psycho-educational component for restarting the sexual activity.

Address correspondence to:
susanasamico@gmail.com