

Female Sexual Dysfunction in Patients with Abnormal Uterine Bleeding

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BACKGROUND

- Abnormal uterine bleeding (AUB) is defined as menstrual flow that is outside of normal frequency, regulation, volume, and/or duration¹
- AUB is the cause of 70% of all gynecologic consults and 1/3 of all outpatient gynecologic visits²
- PALM-COEIN nomenclature (polyp, adenomyosis, leiomyoma, coagulopathy, ovulatory dysfunction, endometrial, iatrogenic, and not yet classified) is used to further classify AUB by etiology³
- Female Sexual Dysfunction (FSD) is a widespread problem among women and is a personal angst in desire, arousal, orgasm, and/or pain⁴
- 43% of women report sexual problems, but the accurate prevalence of FSD is unknown since most patients are hesitant to discuss sexual problems with their providers⁵
- Some causes of FSD have been identified, and several them are also associated with AUB. Structural bases of AUB are associated with pelvic pain and pain with intercourse, while female sexual function overall is highly influenced by hormones, especially estrogen and testosterone⁶. Hormone therapy used for AUB treatment can result in medication-induced sexual dysfunction as well
- There are currently no published correlations between AUB and FSD, but there is a suspected correlation between the two
- There are multiple validated questionnaires that screen and classify FSD. This study will use the Female Sexual Function Index-6 (FSFI-6) questionnaire, published in 2010. It consists of 6 questions regarding sexual function, rated on a Likert Scale. Scores are added together and a summary score of less than or equal to 16 is diagnostic for female sexual dysfunction

STUDY METHODOLOGY

- The study is designed as a case-control study
 - Group 1 (Case): patients with a formal diagnosis of AUB
 - Group 2: (Control): patients without a diagnosis of AUB
- Identification of potentially eligible patients will occur during their gynecologic visit at the Prisma Health Update OBGYN Center and at Prisma Health Midlands – Sunset Drive. Inclusion and exclusion criteria will be considered.
- Study enrollment occurs by a member of the study team approaching the patient during the nurse intake interview. The enrollment process involves a face-to-face interview with an investigator for the study to verify eligibility, describe potential risk and benefits, and obtain written consent.

We predict that patients with abnormal uterine bleeding have a higher incidence and more severe sexual dysfunction than patients without abnormal uterine bleeding.

Female Sexual Function Index-6 (FSFI-6) Questions

Desire: level	Arousal: level	Lubrication: frequency
Orgasm: frequency	Satisfaction: with overall sex life	Pain: frequency during vaginal penetration

Abnormal Uterine Bleeding (heavy, spotting, irregular)

Structural:
Polyp,
Adenomyosis,
Leiomyoma,
Malignancy and
hyperplasia

Non-Structural:
Coagulopathy,
Ovulatory
dysfunction,
Endometrial,
Iatrogenic, Not yet
classified

PALM-COEIN Etiological Classification of AUB

STUDY METHODOLOGY CONTINUED

- Inclusion criteria: premenopausal female, age 18-55, sexually active
- Exclusion criteria: age less than 18, post-menopausal females, history of hysterectomy, pathology diagnosis of endometriosis, diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome, diagnosis of pelvic floor dysfunction, history of pelvic adhesive disease or pelvic inflammatory disease, documented history of sexual abuse
- Eligible participants who consent to participate in the study will fill out the FSFI-6 using REDcap on an iPad. Questionnaires will be numbered with the study ID and they will be scored using the FSFI-6 algorithm
- A chart review will be performed for each patient to identify a diagnosis of AUB, as well as any possible co-occurring conditions that could contribute to FSD. All information collected will be de-identified before study outcomes are analyzed.

MAJOR POINTS

- A recent limitation that we have found is that many patients with AUB report themselves as not sexually active, making themselves ineligible to complete the FSFI-6 study.
- This is the first study within the Prisma Health OBGYN Department to include both Upstate and Midlands.
- The study was recently approved with Spanish translations to allow Spanish-speaking patients to be included in the study.

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