Findings of Studies on Sexuality of Hong Kong Chinese Women (Reproductive Age and around Menopause)

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### ORIGINAL RESEARCH—WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH

### Sexual Behavior and Symptoms among Reproductive Age Chinese Women in Hong Kong

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DOI: 10.1111/jsm.12508

#### ABSTRACT-

Introduction. As sexual medicine evolves, much advancement has been achieved in understanding male sexuality and treating male sexual dysfunction. Less is known about female sexual pattern, the prevalence of sexual problems, and their correlation with confounding factors.

Aim. To enhance our understanding of female sexuality and the risk factors that contributed to sexual problems in reproductive age women.

Method. A cross-sectional survey was conducted in family planning and prepregnancy checkup clinics from December 2007 to December 2009, with 2,146 sexually active Chinese women aged 21 to 40 years completed the entire questionnaire.

Main Outcome Measures. Prevalence of sexual symptoms, coital frequency, and other sexual behavior-related activities were measured.

Results. Overall, 59.0% of respondents had at least one sexual problem. In this sample, 31.8% of respondents reported no desire; 31.7% had arousal problems; 40% had anorgasmia, and 33.8% experienced coital pain for at least 3 months within the past 1 year. Chi-square test showed significant correlation among the four types of sexual problems (P < 0.001). Univariate regression model showed that all sexual symptoms were significantly correlated with unidirectional coitus initiation, low coital frequency, and low foreplay enjoyment. Loglinear model revealed that desire, arousal, and orgasmic problems were correlated with low foreplay enjoyment. Arousal problem was correlated with high acceptance toward pornography and history of medical disease. Coital pain was correlated with secondary education and planning to have more children. Both unidirectional coitus initiation and low coital frequency were major contributors to all four sexual symptoms.

Conclusions. Sexual problem is a prevalent health issue among reproductive age women. A number of risk factors are identified, which provide useful direction to the design of counseling and education materials that might help to enhance sexual performance in women. Lo SST and Kok WM. Sexual behavior and symptoms among reproductive age Chinese women in Hong Kong. J Sex Med 2014;11:1749-1756.

Key Words. Female Sexual ity; Female Sexual Dysfunction; Risk Factors; Sexual Activities; Epidemiology

#### Maturitas 74 (2013) 190-195



### Sexuality of Chinese women around menopause

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#### ARTICLE INFO

1749

#### Article history: Received 28 May 2012 Received in revised form 31 October 2012 Accepted 16 November 2012

#### Keywords;

Female sexual dysfunction Menopause Sexual satisfaction Sexual attitude Sexual activities

#### ABSTRACT

Objective: To study the sexual activities and prevalence of sexual dysfunctions in midlife Chinese women and their correlations with demographic factors, sexual dissatisfaction and interpersonal difficulty. Study design: This is a cross-sectional survey of a convenience sample of women aged 40-60, who requested gynecological checkup or attend social activities at Women's Club. Main outcome measures: Sexual activities, sexual dysfunctions, sexual dissatisfaction, demographic factors and interpersonal difficulty were assessed by self-administered questionnaire.

Results: Among 371 eligible subjects, 22.4% and 39.6% women had low intimacy and coitus frequency (0 to <12 acts in one year), respectively. The odds ratios for low coital frequency in the natural menopausal and surgical menopausal subgroups were 3.00 and 5.09, respectively (95% confidence interval: 1.73-5.19 and 1.77-14.69, respectively). Overall, 77.2% women had at least one type of sexual dysfunctions; this proportion was highest in the surgically menopausal subgroup (88.9%) followed by the naturally menopausal subgroup (79.3%), the perimenopausal subgroup (78.2%) and the premenopausal subgroup (72.2%) (p=0.003). No lubrication (42.9%) was the commonest sexual dysfunction and predominantly affected naturally and surgically menopaused women (p=0.001). Sexual dysfunction was the major contributor to sexual dissatisfaction (0.80), followed by interpersonal difficulty (0.2). Arousal disorder was the pivot of interaction between sexual dissatisfaction, menopausal status and low coital frequency. Conclusions: Chinese women had fewer intimate contacts and less coitus when menopause progressed. No lubrication was the commonest sexual dysfunction and predominantly affected menopaused women. Our model showed that sexual dysfunction is the main contributor to sexual dissatisfaction.



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## Methodology

Dec 2007 – Dec 2009 Anonymous questionnaires

### Aged 21-40

Birth Control Clinics Prepregnancy Checkup Service

### Aged 40-60

Women's Health Service Women's Club



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### **Sexual activities**

| At least 12 times in one year | Aged 21-40<br>(n=2146) | Aged 40-60<br>(n=371) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sexual fantasy                | 77.7%                  | 35.9%                 |
| Intimate contacts             | 93.0%                  | 77.9%                 |
| Sexual intercourse            | 81.9%                  | 60.4%                 |

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## Sexual activities

| At least 12<br>times in one<br>year | Pre-<br>menopause<br>(n=117) | Peri-<br>menopause<br>(n=125) | Natural<br>Menopause<br>(n=111) | Surgical<br>Menopause<br>(n=18) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sexual fantasy                      | 35.1%                        | 43.2%                         | 28.8%                           | 33.3%                           |
| Intimate<br>contacts                | 82.9%                        | 76.5%                         | 66.9%                           | 52.6%                           |
| Sexual<br>intercourse               | 71.8%                        | 66.4%                         | 46.0%                           | 33.3%                           |
|                                     |                              |                               |                                 |                                 |

## Sexual problems

| At least 3 months in one year   | Aged 21-40     |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| No fantasy  | 31.8%          |  |
| No arousal  | 31.7%          |  |
| No orgasm   | 40.0%          |  |
| Coital pain   | 33.8%          |  |
| At least one of the above problem   | <b>→</b> 59.0% |  |
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| At least 3 months in one year         | Aged 40-60 | Pre-/peri-/natural menopause/<br>surgical menopause |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---|
| No fantasy                            | 35.6%      | 32.5 / 36.0 / 37.8 / 38.9%                          |
| No arousal                            | 38.3%      | 33.3 / 38.4 / 43.2 / 38.9%                          |
| Vaginal dryness                       | 42.9%      | 29.1 / 44 / 55 / 50%                                |
| No orgasm                             | 41.0%      | 35.9 / 41.6 / 45 / 44.4%                            |
| Coital pain                           | 31.5%      | 25.7 / 30.4 / 38.7 / 33.4%                          |
| At least one of the <b>-</b><br>above | ▶ 77.2%    | 72.2 / 78.2 / 79.3 / 88.9%                          |

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## **Risk factors**

| Age          | d 21-40   | Aged 40-60       |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Unidirection | al coital initiation  | Menopause status |
| Low coit     | al frequency  |                  |
| Low forep    | lay enjoyment   |                  |
|              |   |                  |
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# Why it matters?

| Aged 21-40                                 | Aged 40-60             |
|--|------------------------|
| Low fertility rate                         | Sexual dissatisfaction |
| Lower women's<br>autonomy                  | Atrophic vaginitis     |
| Negative impact on relationship & marriage |                        |



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## How to improve sex?

| Aged 21-40                    | Aged 40-60  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| More sex talks between couple | Remain sexually active                            |
| Don't be shy                  | Coitus at least 1x / week                         |
| Take turns to initiate        | Lubricant, hormone replacement                    |
| Enjoy foreplay                | Understand changes in sexual<br>response with age |
| Spice up your sex life        | Communicate, Be considerate                       |

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2007

「性」是與生俱來的,圓滿的性生活是維繫美滿 婚姻生活的重要元素。家計會「性治療」服務透 過專業的醫療、輔導及啟導服務,協助夫婦克服 性障礙,重拾性愛的親密和歡愉,並建立快樂、 健康、和諧的美滿婚姻生活。

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