

Activity 11.1

Sexual Dysfunction Case Studies Diagnosis

Below are listed a number of very brief case histories. After having read Section 9.2 of this chapter read these brief descriptions and try to answer the following questions in each case (answers can be found on pages 2 and 3):

- a. Would this case be diagnosable as a sexual dysfunction?
 - b. If so, what is the precise disorder?
 - c. What factors might have contributed to the disorder?
-
1. A frustrated and distressed man confides that every time he and his new wife attempt lovemaking she becomes hysterical and writhes in pain when he attempts vaginal penetration. They have successfully satisfied each other through other means, such as mutual masturbation, but he believes something is wrong or that he is doing something wrong.
 2. A 36-year-old man seeks advice because over the last 6 months he has been experiencing the occasional inability to become erect. His relationship is satisfying, and he usually enjoys the sexual aspects of his life. However, the man is concerned that the situation may worsen.
 3. A 26-year-old woman in a sexually exclusive relationship that has lasted for 1 year wants to know if she is normal because she does not always have orgasm but enjoys sex with her partner. Her friend told her that something may be wrong if she does not experience orgasm every time she has sex.
 4. A 58-year-old woman wants to know why her partner, who is 10-years older than her, has lost his desire for sex. He is not always aroused like he used to be. Her partner enjoys sex but states that it just takes him longer to “get going”.
 5. A 49-year-old woman is concerned that her partner of the same age no longer initiates sexual activity. Her partner has been experiencing irregular menses and low energy for the past year. Nothing seems to stimulate her partner as it used to. When the woman extends foreplay to give her partner more time to respond, she does not respond as before, and it is beginning to affect their relationship in that they do not communicate like they used to.
 6. An 18-year-old man has sought advice on two occasions complaining of penile discharge. Both times the findings were negative for any infection, and he seems evasive about the nature of the discharge. It emerges that he has only recently had sex for the first time, and during that encounter he ejaculated almost immediately after vaginal penetration. His girlfriend asked him if “that was it?” He believes there is something wrong with him.

Answers

1. A frustrated and distressed man confides that every time he and his new wife attempt lovemaking she becomes hysterical and writhes in pain when he attempts vaginal penetration. They have successfully satisfied each other through other means, such as mutual masturbation, but he believes something is wrong or that he is doing something wrong.
 - a. Yes
 - b. Sexual pain disorder such as dyspareunia or vaginismus
 - c. Physical causes such as allergic reactions; gynaecological diseases or infections of the vagina, bladder or uterus; conditioned fear responses to prior traumatic experiences, such as sexual assault.

2. A 36-year-old man seeks advice because over the last 6 months he has been experiencing the occasional inability to become erect. His relationship is satisfying, and he usually enjoys the sexual aspects of his life. However, the man is concerned that the situation may worsen.
 - a. No, because the person's inability to become erect is not persistent and does not diminish sexual satisfaction
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A

3. A 26-year-old woman in a sexually exclusive relationship that has lasted for 1 year wants to know if she is normal because she does not always have orgasm but enjoys sex with her partner. Her friend told her that something may be wrong if she does not experience orgasm every time she has sex.
 - a. No, because the woman experiences sexual satisfaction and orgasm at a frequency that is acceptable to her.
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A

4. A 58-year-old woman wants to know why her partner, who is 10-years older than her, has lost his desire for sex. He is not always aroused like he used to be. Her partner enjoys sex but states that it just takes him longer to "get going".
 - a. No, because the partner is probably experiencing changes in sexual function that is a normal part of the ageing process
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A

5. A 49-year-old woman is concerned that her partner of the same age no longer initiates sexual activity. Her partner has been experiencing irregular menses and low energy for the past year. Nothing seems to stimulate her partner as it used to. When the woman extends foreplay to give her partner more time to respond, she does not respond as before, and it is beginning to affect their relationship in that they do not communicate like they used to.
 - a. Yes
 - b. This could be diagnosable as hypoactive sexual desire disorder because the partner's lack of desire is beginning to significantly affect the relationship that the two have.

- c. Poor communication between the couple could be a cause of the problem rather than simply an outcome; changes in hormone levels in the partner as part of the ageing process could also contribute to increased lack of desire.

- 6. An 18-year-old man has sought advice on two occasions complaining of penile discharge. Both times the findings were negative for any infection, and he seems evasive about the nature of the discharge. It emerges that he has only recently had sex for the first time, and during that encounter he ejaculated almost immediately after vaginal penetration. His girlfriend asked him if “that was it?” He believes there is something wrong with him
 - a. Yes
 - b. Premature ejaculation
 - c. This could be caused by lack of sexual experience, over-responsiveness to tactile or other stimulation, and anxiety caused by sexual inexperience or lack of technique.