



Original Article

A study of sexual functioning and marital satisfaction in women with and without history of labor

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Abstract

Introduction: Sexual relationship is a natural attraction in a fitting family environment and its acceptance and satisfaction is necessary in maintaining the family system. Following the birth of a child, sexual behavior changes due to the certain circumstances of this period. Due to the prevalence of sexual problems and its relationship with the birth of the first child in women who experience motherhood for the first time first, this study aimed to assess the sexual functioning and marital satisfaction in primipar women and women without history of labor.

Materials and Methods: In this descriptive study, 120 married women (60 women with children and 60 women without children); ages ranging between 20-30 years were selected through simple-randomized convenience sampling among who referred the health centers and obstetrics and gynecologists offices in Mashhad, 2013. The participants fulfilled the Enrich Marital Satisfaction, sexual satisfaction and demographic form. Data were analyzed by SPSS software, through descriptive statistics, chi-square and ANOVA tests.

Results: Findings showed that women who had not yet experienced pregnancy and childbirth, had better sexual function ($P=0.017$) and higher marital satisfaction ($P=0.005$). Mean sexual function score in women without children was 3.6 and for women with children was 3.3.

Conclusion: The results suggest that married women without children have higher mean scores of sexual satisfaction and higher marital satisfaction than women who have experienced childbirth. This shows the key-role of sexual functioning in marital satisfaction and necessity of sexual problems in women after childbirth.

Keywords: Labor, Marital satisfaction, Sexual satisfaction, Women

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Introduction

Family, this seemingly small social unit which is a major pillar of the community is essential for any society. It is a sacred subject and even if there seems to be little commitment (1).

Each family is composed of two people that the first form is the result of the marriage between a man and a woman. So apart from the arrival of family issues and needs of the couple, the survey of family problems would not be logical (1).

It should know that man has several instincts and needs that satisfying in a timely manner and its amount has a significant impact on his physical and mental health.

One of these needs is sexual needs. Sexual needs has been accepted as one of the most fundamental pillars of the family and its satisfaction is very important and necessary (2).

Ellis defined marital satisfaction as objective feelings of contentment and satisfaction, pleasure experienced by married couple when all aspects are considered in their lives (2).

But following the childbirth and for the sake of situation, this period is one of the courses of life of women that is accompanied with a high prevalence of sexual dissatisfaction. Women usually face with sexual problems such as painful intercourse, lack of sexual desire, vaginal dryness, and not reaching orgasm that lack of their knowledge could have serious damages to woman and with her husband. So that some couples who are separated most of the time complain with abnormal sex or sexual weakness

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