

## SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

FARHANA SULTANA<sup>1</sup>, SULTANA ALGIN<sup>2</sup>, HAFEZA AFTAB<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka, Bangladesh, E-mail: dr.rumi36@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Background:** Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common functional bowel disorder. The prevalence of IBS is more in women. It is often associated with extra-intestinal symptoms like psychosomatic symptoms and sexual dysfunction. This study investigated the frequency of extra intestinal manifestation especially psychosomatic symptoms and sexual dysfunction of irritable bowel syndrome in women. **Methods:** This is a descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in the Department of Gastroenterology, Dhaka Medical College Hospital from April 2022 to March, 2023. Patients were included following Rome IV criteria for IBS and face to face interviewed. Psychosomatic Symptoms Questionnaire (PSQ-39), the Arizona Sexual Experience Scale were used for psychosomatic and sexual status respectively. **Results:** One hundred twenty patients participated, mean age was 36.43±9.91 years, Majority (40%) had higher secondary level education, predominant occupation was housewife (82.5%), most of them (55%) living in urban area. Mean duration of illness was 4.28±2.217 years, diarrhea predominant IBS-D (53%) was most common. Among them 65% had psychosomatic symptoms, 56.7% reported sexual symptoms. According to ASEX criteria no sex drive was found in 27.5%, weak sex drive in 24.2%, sexual arousal never occurred in 26.7%, difficult in sex 28.3%, no vaginal lubrication in 17.5%, difficult in orgasm 29.2%, orgasm never experienced in 26.7%, difficult to reach orgasm in 28.3%, satisfaction of orgasm was never in 30%, unsatisfying orgasm in 26.7% of them. About 75.3% population had perception that IBS as their cause of sexual dysfunction, 8.2% had incompetent male partner, 9.4% had their partner in abroad and 7.1% patients had familial disharmony, 14.2% had history of abstinent. **Conclusion:** In addition to bowel problems sexual dysfunction is common extra intestinal complaints in IBS patients. Requires special attention during management of IBS in women

**Keywords:** Sexual dysfunction, irritable bowel syndrome

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