

00236 Is Individual or Couple Sexual Dysfunction Correlated to Couple's Relational Difficulties? If So, How? A Systematic Review

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Aims:

Introduction: The association between individual or couple sexual dysfunction and couple relational difficulties is a fundamental question for couple therapy research. However, there have been no past attempts to systematically review the existing literature looking at these dimensions, and how their interconnectedness may be mediated or moderated by other variables.

Aim: To furnish a detailed and critical investigation of the literature on the correlation between individual or couple sexual dysfunction and couple relational difficulties (marital or relationship functioning / satisfaction, and sexual functioning / satisfaction).

Methodology: A systematic review of research examined in PsycINFO Journals@Ovid Full Text (March 24, 2017), Embase (1974 to 2017 Week 13), Ovid Medline(R) (1946 to March Week 3 2017) and PsycINFO (March 24, 2017) databases for articles up to March Week 3 2017, Google scholar and Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy (Volume 1, 1974-1975 to Volume 43, 2017), and WorldCat Dissertations and Theses.

Result: The outcomes established that there is a significant correlation between sexual functioning (satisfaction) and marital or relationship functioning (satisfaction), which is mediated and moderated by multiple variables such as attributed responsibility, positive communication style, sexual distress, treatment of premature ejaculation, treatment of erectile dysfunction, etc..

Conclusion: Further research to target the interplay of the multiple mediating and moderating variables that affect the association between individual or couple sexual dysfunction and couple relational difficulties is recommended. Such prospective studies would have implications for designing and implementing clinical interventions for marital and couple therapists.