



# MINI POSTER BOOK

## XII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



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ONE

TWO

THREE

# SEX!



SEXUAL  
HEALTH



REPRO-  
DUCTIVE  
HEALTH



GENERAL  
HEALTH

ONE

TWO

THREE

ONE

# ROME

TWO

# DECEMBER

THREE

# 2016

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**Introduction.** Sexuality is often dysfunctional in people with psychiatric disorders. This is due both the psychopathology as use of psychiatric drugs. This study aims to evaluate sexuality in a group of psychiatric patients through the most used psychometric tools in sexual medicine and in psychiatry, i.e., International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-15), Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) and Positive and Negative Symptoms Scale (PANSS).

**Tab.1 Demographics and clinics**

	n=46
AGE	42.82±12
MALES	28; 60.8%
PSYCHOSIS	28; 60.8%
MOOD DISORDERS	18; 39.2%

**Results.** Significant and negative correlation were found among male sexual function and positive symptoms, while negative symptoms were in a reverse association with lubrication and orgasm in female patients (Tab. 2).

Moreover, regression analysis showed that both positive and negative symptoms had a negative impact on female orgasm (Tab. 3).

No other predictive aspects in females and males were found.

**Tab.3 Predictors of female orgasm**

	Beta	t	Sig.
POSITIVE	-1,045	-2,319	0,037
NEGATIVE	-1,471	-3,857	0,002
GENERAL	-0,858	-0,989	0,341
TOTAL	2,663	1,967	0,071

**Methods.** We recruited a sample composed by 46 subjects suffering from psychiatric disease (Tab. 1). Then we administered a psychometric protocol composed by IIEF-15 or FSFI to assess sexuality, PANSS psychiatric symptoms and VGF assessing the global functioning. We performed according to the gender a correlation analysis with Pearson coefficient and linear regressions assuming sexological aspects as dependent variables.

**Tab.2 Correlation between male and female sexual response with psychopathology and global functioning (IIEF.15, FSFI, PANSS, VGF).**

	MALES/IIEF-15	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GENERAL	TOTAL	VGF
ORGASM		-,523**	-0,184	-0,214	-0,324	,400*
DESIRE		-,407*	-0,243	-0,277	-0,358	0,273
SATISFACTION		-,409*	-0,352	-0,217	-,379*	,436*
WELLNESS		-,429*	-0,174	-0,232	-0,306	0,365
ERECTION		-,471*	-,388*	-0,195	-,399*	,442*
<b>FEMALES/FSFI</b>						
DESIRE		0,037	0,002	0,243	0,211	-0,086
EXCITATION		-0,054	-0,403	-0,063	-0,124	0,218
LUBRICATION		-0,206	-,529*	-0,153	-0,255	0,245
ORGASM		-0,332	-,526*	-0,069	-0,207	0,229
SATISFACTION		-0,032	-0,1	0,386	0,202	-0,1
PAIN		-0,143	-0,301	0,075	-0,042	0,291
FSFI		-0,154	-0,379	0,067	-0,06	0,209

\*p<0.01;  
\*\*p<0.0001

**Conclusions.** Our results revealed that there were strong associations between positive symptoms and male sexual disorders particularly, although a major general functioning is associated to a major sexual health. In females instead negative symptoms are associated to orgasm and lubrication difficulties, and in this group specific psychiatric symptoms influence orgasmic response. On the contrary, it is possible to hypothesize that in males iatrogen effects are mostly predictive for sexual dysfunctions compared to females.

**Essential References.**

1. Jannini, E.A., et al., Health-related characteristics and unmet needs of men with erectile dysfunction: a survey in five European countries. *J Sex Med*, 2014. 11(1): p. 40-50
2. Ciocca, G., et al., Sexual dysfunctions in people with first-episode psychosis assessed according to a gender perspective. *Riv Psichiatr*, 2015. 50(5): p. 239-244.

## Assessment of sexual functioning in people suffering from severe mental illness: Italian validation of Arizona Sexual Experience (ASEX)

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**Introduction.** Many forms of mental disorders, especially psychotic and mood disorders are characterized also by a worsening of sexual functioning. The main aim of this study was to validate in the Italian context the Arizona Sexual Experience, ASEX, a very useful international tool to assess sexual dysfunction in people suffering from mental illness.

**Methods.** Forty six psychiatric patients were recruited and assessed for mental illness and sexual functioning. We administered the Italian version of Arizona Sexual Experience (ASEX), adequately translated by two expert bilinguals. After 15 days we administered once again the test for test-retest reliability.

**Results.** Among the 46 recruited psychiatric patients 28 suffered from psychosis and 18 from mood disorders. Validation of ASEX revealed Cronbach's coefficients higher .70 in both single items as in the total score. Also the test-retest reliability revealed Pearson's coefficients higher .50 in the various domains.

**Conclusions.** This study represents a preliminary validation in Italian psychiatric context of a very useful specific tool for the sexual assessment in people suffering from mental illness. Our analysis revealed good psychometric characteristics in terms of internal consistency and test-retest reliability.

**Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics (n=46)**

Age	42.82±12.06
Males	28; 60.8%
Females	18; 39.2%
Psychotic diseases	28; 60.8%
Mood diseases	18; 39.2%
ASEX total score	14.60±5.85

**Table 2. Internal consistency of the ASEX scale-Italian Version (Cronbach's alpha)**

Items and Total score	males	females	total
Sexual drive	0.81	0.80	0.83
Arousal	0.83	0.80	0.84
Penile erection/Vaginal lubrication	0.79	0.81	0.82
Ability to reach orgasm	0.83	0.85	0.85
Satisfaction from orgasm	0.82	0.83	0.85
Total ASEX	0.72	0.73	0.76

**Table 3. Test-retest reliability.**

Items and Total score	Pearson's r coefficient	P-value
Sexual drive	0.586	0.0001
Arousal	0.624	0.0001
Penile erection/Vaginal lubrication	0.523	0.0001
Ability to reach orgasm	0.642	0.0001
Satisfaction from orgasm	0.700	0.0001
Total ASEX	0.725	0.0001

### Essential References

- Jannini, E.A., et al., *Health-related characteristics and unmet needs of men with erectile dysfunction: a survey in five European countries*. J Sex Med, 2014. 11(1): p. 40-50
- Ciocca, G., et al., *Sexual dysfunctions in people with first-episode psychosis assessed according to a gender perspective*. Riv Psichiatr, 2015. 50(5): p. 239-244.
- McGahuey, C.A., et al., *The Arizona Sexual Experience Scale (ASEX): Reliability and validity*. J Sex Marital Ther, 2000. 26(1): p. 25-40.