

HYPOTHESIS / AIMS OF STUDY

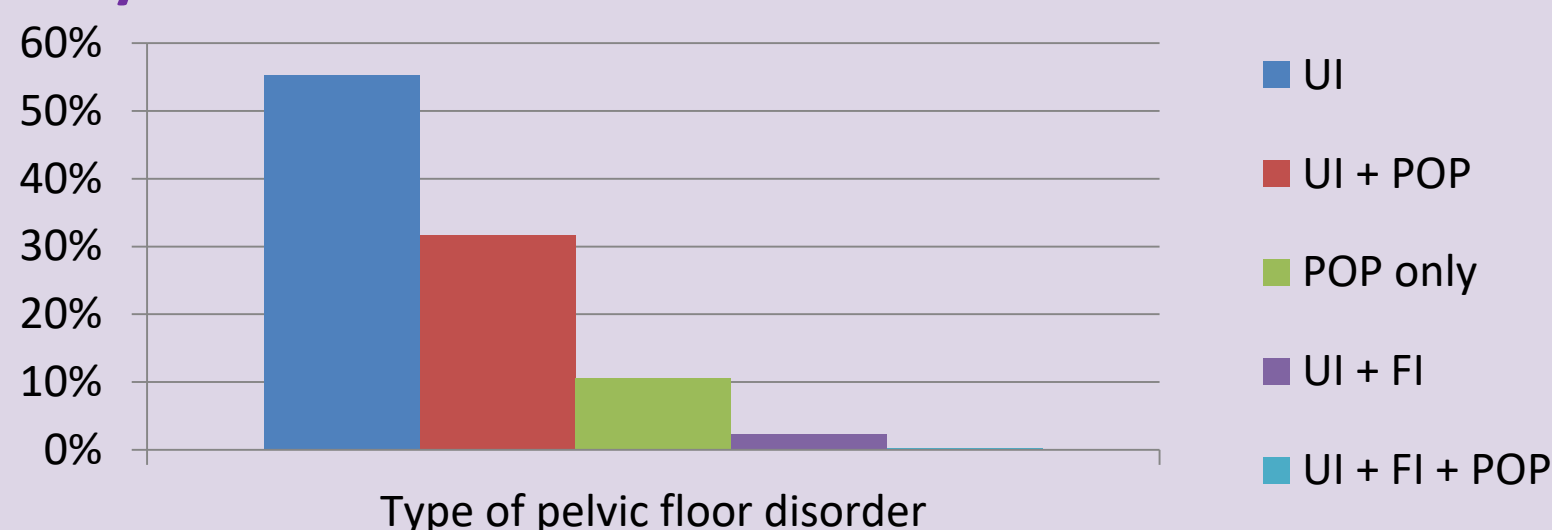
Pelvic floor disorders (PFD) may affect the sexual function of women. The study aims at evaluating the sexual activity status of women who presented for pelvic floor disorders.

STUDY DESIGN, MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This is retrospective analysis of a prospective study, namely Chinese validation of Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory (PFDI) and Pelvic Floor Impact Questionnaire (PFIQ). All Chinese women presented to the Urogynaecology clinic for PFD were recruited. Written consent was obtained. Demographic data including their sexual activity status, being sexually active or inactive, and co-morbidity of diabetes mellitus and hypertension, were collected. They filled in the Chinese PFDI and PFIQ to determine their symptoms and bothersome of PFD. Gynaecological examination was performed and stage of pelvic organ prolapse (POP) was assessed by pelvic organ prolapse quantification (POP-Q). Ethics approval was obtained. (CREC-2007.437)

RESULTS:

In all, 597 women were recruited; 529 (88.6%) provided the information on sexual status. The mean age of these women was 54.5±11.1 years (range 23-87 years) and parity was 2.6±1.4.



The characteristics of the women were listed in table 1. Table 2 showed the factors associated with the sexual status of women. Higher age, being menopause, hypertension, symptoms of POP and more advanced stage of POP were factors predicting women who were sexually inactive. Urinary incontinence and coital incontinence did not predict women being sexually inactive. PFDI scores and having diabetes mellitus were not associated with the sexual status.

After multivariate analysis, only higher age was an independent factors for women being sexually inactive (OR 0.9, 95% CI 0.87-0.93, P<0.005), while women who had a higher parity was an independent factor for being sexually active (OR 1.3, 95% CI 1.04-1.62, P=0.02).

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

Although higher age, symptoms of POP, more advanced stage of POP, menopausal status and co-morbidity of hypertension were associated with sexually inactivity of women, only higher age was an independent factor (OR 0.9). Having coital incontinence did not affect women being sexually inactive. PFDI scores were not associated with sexual activity of women.

CONCLUDING MESSAGE:

Symptoms of pelvic floor disorders, stage of POP, PFDI scores were not independent factors for sexual status of women. Higher age is an independent factor for women being sexually inactive (OR 0.9)

DISCLOSURE:

None.

Table 1. The characteristics and symptoms of women with pelvic floor disorders

	All N = 529	UI or urinary symptoms only (n=292)	UI and POP group (n=167)	POP only (n=56)	UI and FI group (n=12)	UI, FI and POP group (n=2)
Age (years)	54.5±11.1	50.2±9.7	60.0±10.0	61.0±11.5	54.0±9.4	60.0±1.4
Menopause	297 (56.1%)	129 (44.2%)	119 (71.3%)	41 (73.2%)	6 (50%)	2 (100%)
Parity	2.6±1.4	2.2±1.2	3.0±1.4	3.4±1.8	2.5±1.2	3.0
No. of vaginal birth	2.6±1.4	2.2±1.2	2.9±1.5	3.4±1.6	2.4±1.1	3.0
Coital incontinence	26 (4.9%)	23 (7.9%)	1 (0.6%)	1 (1.8%)	0	1 (50%)
Sexually active	265 (50.1%)	176 (60.3%)	64 (38.3%)	20 (35.7%)	5 (41.7%)	0

Table 2. Factors predicting the women being sexually active

	Sexually active n = 265	Sexually inactive n = 264	P	Univariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
				OR	95% CI	P	OR	95% CI	P
Age (years)	49.7±8.8	59.4±11.1	<0.005	0.91	0.87-0.93	<0.005	0.90	0.87-0.93	<0.005
Parity	2.3±1.2	2.8±1.6	<0.005	0.76	0.66-0.86	<0.005	1.3	1.04-1.62	0.02
Menopause	107 (40.4%)	190 (72.0%)	<0.005	0.26	0.18-0.38	<0.005	0.64	0.41-1.01	0.055
Diabetes mellitus	28 (10.6%)	45 (17.0%)	0.03	0.46	0.16-1.38	0.17	-	-	-
Hypertension	60 (22.6%)	92 (34.8%)	0.002	0.55	0.37-0.80	0.002	1.61	0.99-2.61	0.054
UI symptoms	245 (92.5%)	228 (86.4%)	0.023	1.93	1.1-3.4	0.025	0.99	0.48-2.02	0.969
POP symptoms	84 (31.7%)	141 (53.4%)	<0.005	0.41	0.28-0.58	<0.005	0.96	0.60-1.54	0.863
FI symptoms	5 (1.9%)	9 (3.4%)	0.28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coital incontinence	22 (8.3%)	4 (1.5%)	<0.005	3.66	1.1-12.7	0.04	2.86	0.27-30.3	0.384
Stage of POP			<0.005	0.27	0.14-0.52	<0.005	0.47	0.22-1.02	0.057
-Stage 0 to II	252 (95.1%)	222 (84.1%)							
-Stage III to IV	13 (4.9%)	42 (15.9%)							
PFDI									
UDI score	81.8±46.8	79.1±56.7	0.55	-	-	-	-	-	-
POPDI score	80.2±50.0	82.5±64.6	0.64	-	-	-	-	-	-
CRADI score	78.6±61.9	80.1±72.9	0.81	-	-	-	-	-	-

Data are presented in mean±standard deviation or number (percentage)
CRADI Colorectal Distress Inventory, FI faecal incontinence, PFDI Pelvic Floor Distress Inventory, POP pelvic organ prolapse, POPDI Pelvic Organ Prolapse Distress Inventory, UDI Urinary Distress Inventory