

Prevalence, predictors and longitudinal course of sexual dysfunction in adults with atopic dermatitis

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Abstract

Background: Little is known about the burden of sexual dysfunction (SD) in atopic dermatitis (AD).

Objective: To determine the prevalence and associations of SD in adults with AD.

Methods: A prospective dermatology practice-based study of adult patients with AD was performed. SD in the past 7 days was assessed by patient-report (5-point Likert scale). AD severity was assessed using multiple validated clinician-reported and patient-reported outcomes.

Results: At baseline, SD was reported by 18.02% of patients, was associated with being married (adjusted odds ratio [95% confidence interval]: 2.392 [1.321-4.328] and younger age (2.983 [1.599-5.567]) but not race or sex in models controlling for sociodemographics and AD severity; Adult-onset vs. childhood-onset AD (2.895 [1.195-7.014]) was associated with significant SD. SD and SD severity were associated with total and objective Scoring AD, Eczema Area and Severity Index, body surface area, Investigator's Global Assessment, and their cross-product, Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure and Patient Global Assessment of AD. AD lesions on genitals (adjusted odds ratio [95% confidence interval]: 3.071 [1.324-7.124]), neck (2.895 [1.298-6.458]) and lower extremities (2.311 [1.297-4.118]) were particularly associated with SD.

Limitations: Single-center study.

Conclusion: SD is commonly reported by adults with AD, and is associated with marriage, adult-onset AD, AD severity and lesions on genitals.