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Summary

SEXUAL FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE PERIANAL FISTULIZING CROHN'S DISEASE

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UEG Week Vienna 2024 | Poster

IBD

October 13, 2024

Sexual dysfunction affects 69% of patients with active perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease, with older age and decreased disease-related quality of life identified as independent risk factors in a Dutch multicenter cohort of 214 patients.

KEY POINTS

- In 214 patients with active perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease from 41 Dutch hospitals, 69% reported sexual dysfunction (75% of females, 63% of males, p=0.07).
- Patients with sexual dysfunction had significantly worse perianal Crohn's disease-related quality of life (median CAF-QoL 54 vs. 35 points, p<0.01), worse IBD-related quality of life (median sIBDQ 46 vs. 52 points, p<0.01), and more depressive symptoms (49% vs. 27%, p<0.01).
- Multivariable analysis identified older age (aOR 1.0; 95% CI 1.0-1.1) and decreased perianal Crohn's disease-related quality of life (aOR 1.0; 95% CI 1.0-1.1) as independent risk factors for sexual dysfunction, while longer perianal disease duration (aOR 0.9; 95% CI 0.8-0.9) was protective.
- A weak correlation between health-related quality of life and sexual dysfunction was observed (r=0.25 for CAF-QoL, r=-0.24 for sIBDQ).
- Authors conclude that sexual function should be evaluated routinely in this patient population given the high prevalence of dysfunction.

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