Conclusions: That experience has confirmed the usefulness of team work and of the interaction between andrologists and psycho-sexologists in sexual problems treatment.

T08-O-22

Internet counselling: the ISC model

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Objectives: The present work aims at describing the characteristics of the on-line counselling service offered by the Istituto di Sessuologia Clinica, highlighting the main reasons why users apply for the service, and the kinds of answers given by the consultants.

Materials and methods: The data of the present work were collected from the e-mails sent to the ISC mailbox since 2005, and from the answers given to these e-mails. A descriptive analysis was conducted.

Results: The data obtained show that the majority of users need counselling for sexual dysfunctions: men for erectile disorders and premature ejaculation, women for vaginismus and orgasm problems respectively.

The answers given have five main functions: information, orientation, reassurance, support and redefinition of the original request.

Conclusions: This new type of psychological intervention, characterised by the distance support offered, requires different ways of helping and listening to problems as well as new competences for the operator/consultant.

The Istituto di Sessuologia Clinica has developed an integrated model of intervention that includes specific training for the consultants; this model will be discussed in the present work.

T08-P-01

Communication patterns and dyadic adjustment of couples: a preliminary study

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Introduction: Many studies show that communication is a basic variable in understanding functioning of couple. A pattern of marital interaction in which one partner tries to discuss a relationship problem and is demanding whereas the other tries to avoid discussion and withdrawn during discussion is a particularly destructive style of interaction. This pattern is labelled from A. Christensen the demand/withdraw pattern and the research demonstrated that is highly associated with dissatisfaction. J. Gottman considers this pattern an interaction style that could be of particular use in understanding the dynamics of couples characterized by Abusive Relationship.

Objective: The aim of this present research is to examine the communication patterns of couples characterized and couples non characterized by IPV (Intimate Partner Violence).

Method: Subjects. 85 couples (53 married, 24 engaged, 8 living together). The mean ages of women and men are 37.04 years (SD: 11.04) and 40.01 years (SD: 11.39) respectively. Measures: Communication Patterns Questionnaire (CPQ), Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS), Self-report about use of physical violence and emotional abuse in the couple.

Results: “Couples differentiate for presence/absence of violence (physical and/or emotional) in intimate relationship. Violent couples have significantly higher scores (p < .05) than other group on Total amount of demand-withdraw communication subscale, Mutual Avoidance and Withholding subscale of CPQ and on Dyadic Adjustment Scale of DAS.”

Conclusions: These preliminary findings should provide clinicians and researchers of sexual counselling and psychotherapy with important information about the relationship of couple. These findings can be the basis for future research to examine communication styles in couples with sexual problems.

T08-P-02

Using an integrative approach in urinary incontinence treatment

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Objective: Urinary incontinence is a frequent medical condition in women that has severe consequences on patients’ perception of quality of life and sexual life. The aim of this contribution is to analyse the range of the available treatments to evaluate short-term and long-term outcomes focusing on patients’ psychological well-being.

Design and method: The paper provides a theoretical contribution to the treatment of urinary incontinence. The authors have consulted the main scientific search engines such as Pubmed, Medline and Psychinfo, taking into account recent publications from 2000 to 2007.

Results: Several kinds of treatment were taken into account to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in providing short-term and long-term outcomes not only as to physiological aspects but also as to psychosocial well-being. Moreover, the role of a support group was studied as an important variable in the treatment outcomes.

Conclusions: Literature analysis of traditional, combined and alternative treatments for urinary incontinence shows the importance of using an integrative approach. The pathogenesis heterogeneity of incontinence requires a multidisciplinary approach taking into account psychosomatic and somatopsychic components of the disorder. The integrative approach considers the importance of partner role in the aetiology and the efficacy of treatment. This approach uses several professional figures such as gynaecologist, urologist,