



The Relationship between Sexual Dysfunction and Health-related Quality of Life in Chronic Renal Failure Patients

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ABSTRACT This paper aimed to evaluate the frequency of sexual dysfunction (SD) and its relationship with health-related quality of life (HRQoL) among dialysis patients. Two hundred and forty-six married patients were recruited, with one partner undergoing dialysis for at least one-year, in three Kayseri dialysis-centers. Data was collected using the Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale (ASEX_s), Short Form-36 (SF-36), Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS), and the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI). Erectile dysfunction and orgasmic disorder were the major problems for males and females. Physical HRQoL was markedly lower in patients with SD in both treatment groups (p=0.001). Female ASEX_s scores were inversely correlated with PCS (p=0.001). Older age (OR=1.056), impaired physical HRQoL (OR=0.944), HD modality (OR=2.486) were the main predictors for SD. SD was highly prevalent and closely associated with deteriorated HRQoL in both groups. Strengthening sexual function with supporting psychology, hormones, and pharmacologics, may cure impaired HRQoL.