

Impact of Methamphetamine and Opium Use in Sexual Satisfaction and Body Image in Married Substance and Non-substance User Men

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Abstract

Background: Sexual satisfaction is a vital component in marital satisfaction and quality of life. The appraisal of body image has influence on the sexual satisfaction. The previous study showed that people use methamphetamine and opium to enhance the sexual functioning. The current study is designed to examine the impact of methamphetamine and opium use in sexual satisfaction and body image.

Methods: The sample includes 100 non-substance user men and 53 methamphetamine users and 47 opium users that were selected with convenience sampling, respectively (age ranged below 50 years, mean=34.71±6.35) in Tehran, in 2012. The research instruments were Index of Sexual Satisfaction (Frazoni 1984) and Body Esteem Scale (Hudson 1981). Data was analyzed between three groups by utilizing the Pearson correlation and MANOVA.

Result: Body image is associated with sexual satisfaction in non-substance user ($P<0.01$) and opium user ($P<0.01$), but this relationship was not observed in the methamphetamine group ($P<0.05$). In addition, the significant difference was found between three groups in sexual satisfaction and body image ($P<0.005$). Besides, the results revealed that the average of body image and sexual satisfaction in non-substance abuser is higher than the substance user ($P<0.05$), and sexual satisfaction in methamphetamine group is higher than opium group ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: These findings support the idea that body image is a critical factor in sexual satisfaction. Consequently, treatment must consider the psychological and physical impact of methamphetamine and opium use in sexual function.

Keywords: Body image, Male, Methamphetamine, Opium, Personal Satisfaction,

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Introduction

Satisfying sex life is an essential part of general health and quality of life (1). In addition, sexual satisfaction is one part of the

intimate relationship of couples (2). Sexual satisfaction is identified as a subjective evaluation of the level which someone is

satisfied with his/her sex life (3,4). Studies indicated that the level of satisfaction of relationship is associated with the level of sexual satisfaction (5,6). However, marital dissatisfaction leads to feelings of frustration and deprivation in couples (6,7). Studies show that several factors are engaged in causing and perpetuation marital dissatisfaction such as anxiety, depression, stress, economic pressure, and physical illness (8,9,10). Previous research found that body image can be predicted frequency of sexual behavior in male and female (11). Studies revealed that men generally are dissatisfied with their body weight as women, but this dissatisfaction is different (12), men have problems with muscle dysmorphia that will be typically referred to as bigorexia or opposite anorexia (13). In addition, body dissatisfaction relates to lower relationship satisfaction (14). Study indicated that whenever someone has self-conscious during sexual activity, he concentrated more on how their body seems as opposed than the sexual experience (15,16,17). In other words, negative body image lead to self-spectatoring during sex (a concentration on self rather than the sexual activity or the partner), the sexual avoidance, and the decreasing sexual pleasure (18,19,20). Previous research showed that body image anxiety has been found in both male and female and body image can affect men sexual satisfaction (21,22,23). On the other hand, the addictive substances have destructive impact on physical, emotional, and behavioral substance abuser. It leads to sexual and verbal violence and increase the marital conflict (24). However, currently our country has high level of the opiate user in the world. Opium use has psychological symptoms such as psychosis and behavioral disorders (25). In addition, amphetamine crystal methamphetamine has increased considerably in recent decade's (26). The previous research indicated that users of the amphetamine have a comorbid psychological problems, including high levels

of anxiety, depression, mood disturbance, deficits in cognitive skills, sexual dysfunction. In addition, it affects neurotransmitters and cause euphoria, increased feelings of intimacy and sexual libido, and increased energy (27,28). Results revealed that men use methamphetamine to increase sexual pleasure whereas women report additional causes for use including; weight loss, increase feeling of attractiveness and coping with difficult emotions (29, 30). Also, Lapera et al. showed that the considerable sexual disorder and decrease sexual satisfaction between substance abuser compared with normal population (31). Body image concerns have a significant stress for men therefore, studying the relation between body image and sexual satisfaction can precipitate the development of an effective intervention for couples with low sexual desire/satisfaction problems. Since that very little research has been done on men and body image, specifically how sexual satisfaction is affected by body image in substance abuser men (crystal and opium), the current study aimed to compare between body image and sexual satisfaction in married men, crystal and opium abusers.

Patients and Methods

1. Participants and Plan

This survey was a causal-comparative study. It was conducted in Tehran city in 2012. The study includes three groups: 100 married men (below 50 years old) were chosen with available sampling, and volunteers married men with crystal and opium abuser 53 and 47 years old respectively from addiction treatment centers. All of the subjects signed an informed consent for the participation in the study. Members of the sample were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Age ranged between 20 and 50 years
- Being a crystal or opium abuser at least 6 months ago

- The lower levels of reading and writing ability were considered

Data analyzed between three groups by utilizing the Pearson correlation and MANOVA. The data analyzed by SPSS software, version 18.

2. Measurements

Socio-demographic data sheet

A socio-demographic data sheet was used to record personal information of men including age, education, number of children, and duration of marriage, types of substance use, and onset of using substance.

Body Esteem Scale (BES)

The BES (32) is a 35-item self-report questionnaire based on the Body Cathexis Scale (Secord & Jourard, 1953) and designed to measure a person's esteem. Each item describes an aspect of sexual attractiveness, weight concern, and physical condition and the rate on a Likert scale of 1–5. Internal consistency was reported high for both men and women with alpha coefficients ranging from 0.78 to 0.87 (32). The Cronbach' alpha of the subscales was 0.78, 0.89 and 0.84, respectively, in the current research.

Index of Sexual Satisfaction (ISS)

The ISS is a 25-item (Likert-type) scale. This questionnaire designed to measure the degree of dissatisfaction in the sexual component of a dyadic relationship. Obtained scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater degrees of sexual discord. The ISS has a clinical cutting score of 30 such that scores above that value indicate the presence of a clinically significant degree of sexual discord in the relationship. Internal consistency was estimated using

Cronbach's alpha (0.92). The validity coefficient is 0.74 (33).

Results

Table 1 indicated the results of socio-demographic characteristics of all the participants. As shown in table 1, the higher category of duration of marriage belonged to 1-5 and high level of education was bachelor degree. Further, 44.4, 29.5, and 26.1 percent of participants were non-substance abuser, amphetamine abuser and opium abuser, respectively. A matrix correlation coefficient was conducted on the data for the responses to research questions. The results are displayed in table 2, which shows that the correlation coefficient is statistically significant in non-substance abuser group between sexual satisfaction and physical condition ($r=0.283$, $p<0.05$), physical attractiveness ($r=0.398$, $p<0.01$). Additionally, the correlation coefficient is statistically significant in opium abuser between sexual satisfaction and the subscales of body esteem; weight concern, physical condition and physical attractiveness ($r=0.635$, 0.604 , 0.623 ; $p<0.001$, respectively). Finally, there is not a significant relationship between sexual satisfaction and subscales of body image in methamphetamine abuse ($p<0.05$). Regarding the results of the table 3, there is statistically significant between the three groups in the subscales of weight concern ($F=45.658$, $p<0.05$) physical ($F=72.906$, $p<0.05$) and attractiveness ($F=76.657$, $p<0.01$) condition and sexual satisfaction ($F=31.479$, $p<0.01$). Likewise, there is a statistically significant difference between sexual satisfaction in non-substance user and methamphetamine and opium user groups ($p<0.05$) (table 4).

Table 1- Socio - Demographic Characteristic of all Participants in Research

Groups	N	F(%)
Non-substance abuser	80	44.4%
Amphetamine abuser	53	29.4%
Opium abuser	47	26.2%
Duration of marriage		
Less than 1 year	15	8.4%
1-5 years	62	34.4%
5-10 years	53	29.4%
Higher than 10 years	50	27.8%
Level of Education		
Diploma degree or less	21	11.6%
Some college-2 year degree	48	26.7%
Baccalaureate Degree	97	53.9%
Master's & doctorate	14	7.8%

^a Abbreviations: N: Sample; F: percent frequency

Table2-The correlation matrix between sexual satisfaction and body image

Group	Variable	Sexual satisfaction	Weight concern	Physical condition	Physical attractiveness
Non-substance abuser	Sexual satisfaction	1			
	Weight concern	0.173	1		
	Physical condition	0.283*		1	
	Physical attractiveness	0.398**			1
Opium abuser	Sexual satisfaction	1			
	Weight concern	0.635**	1		
	Physical condition	0.604**		1	
	Physical attractiveness	0.623**			1
Methamphetamine abuser	Sexual satisfaction	1			
	Weight concern	0.122	1		
	Physical condition	0.163		1	
	Physical attractiveness	0.084			1

**=P<0.01

*=P<0.05

Table 3- Analyzing of MANOVA test for effect of normal (1), methamphetamine abuser (2), and opium abuser (3) in body image

	Mean ± SD ^a	SS ^a	df ^a	P value	F ^a	η ² ^a
Weight concern						
1 ^G	31.1375±3.53909					
2 ^G	26.2453±3.89727	764.842	2-177	.000	45.658	.340
3 ^G	24.4894±5.07711					
Physical condition						
1 ^G	52.2875±5.18565					
2 ^G	42.0189±5.80282	2775.503	2-17	.000	72.906	.452
3 ^G	40.2553±7.88909					
Physical attractiveness						
1 ^G	41.9500±5.54133					
2 ^G	36.2830±5.02447	4741.715	2-177	.000	76.657	.326
3 ^G	32.9149±6.02469					

Abbreviations: SD: Standard Deviation; df: Degree of freedom; SS: sum square; F: F value; η²: partial Eta Squared.

Table 4- Analyzing of MANOVA test for effect of normal (1), methamphetamine abuser (2), and opium abuser (3) in sexual satisfaction

Group	Mean ± SD ^a	SS ^a	df ^a	P value	F ^a	η ²
1 ^G	106.5500±15.92061					
2 ^G	87.0943±14.48775	10239.223	2-177	.000	31.479	.262
3	83.2340±24.06261					

Abbreviations: SD: Standard Deviation; df: Degree of freedom; SS: sum square; F: F value; η²: partial Eta Squared.

5. Discussion

This study was designed to compare sexual satisfaction and body image in non-substance abusing, amphetamine and opium abuser. The results of the current study indicated the positive relationship between subscales of body image and sexual satisfaction in non-substance abuser group; this means that the higher level of body image is associated with the higher level of sexual satisfaction. This finding is in accordance with previous studies (3,12,18,19,34). Meana et al. (2005) indicated that body image one of the critical components in attention of appearance instead of focus during sexual activity (18). The lack of a relationship between weight concern and sexual satisfaction among non-substance abuser in this study might be explained by this fact that men are usually more concerned with body shape versus body weight (12,35). In addition, the previous researches show that men overall are as dissatisfied with their body weight as women, but this dissatisfaction is different (36). Particularly, the same number of men want to increase versus reduce weight, although women commonly want to be thinner (37,38). Furthermore, the findings of the current study indicated the positive relationship between sexual satisfaction and body image in the opium abuser group. Additionally, studies indicated that both men and women with negative body image tend to feel more having sexual dissatisfaction (12,39). Moreover, studies show that dissatisfaction with body image has been associated with the lower level of self-esteem and disability to have sexual relationships. Thus, the negative body image may be resulted in being sexually avoidant (40, 41,42). Considering that, drug use has a physical effect on the body and these influences are bale to development perceived body image and decrease sexual satisfaction (43, 44). However, the relationship between body image and sexual satisfaction was not observed in the

methamphetamine group; this result is in line with recent research that indicated no statistically significant between body image and food preoccupation with methamphetamine abuser women (45). In addition, other research noted that the large numbers of MA users reported more extremely positive experience in sexual activity than any other substance dependent group (43). Also, since the use of amphetamine has a devastating effect on physical health such as; dental, hairs, and skin; hence, the use of methamphetamine is linked to negative body image (46). Therefore, it causes the methamphetamine abuser not to behave self-focus during sexual activity. According to the findings of the current study, the average in the subscales of body image in non-substance abuser are higher than in opium and amphetamine abuse. Spring et al. (47) indicated the relationship between sexual dysfunction and methadone doses. They relieved that men experiencing significant sexual dysfunction were more likely to be on higher doses of methadone. Additionally, Pomerleau et al. (2007) showed smokers did not differ from non-smokers on perceived body shape but endorsed a thinner preferred body shape and lower scored on body satisfaction than non-smokers (48). Consequently, the findings of the present study are in accordance with previous studies that have been completed in this area. Also, in this research, the methamphetamine abuser group has the higher level of body image than the opium abuser group. Some other studies had reported that patients with opiate dependence show significantly poorer quality of life in the physical, psychological, and social domains in regard to healthy participants (49,50). Therefore, the opium has the highest physical dependency than the amphetamine. On the other hand, in this research opium abuser use simultaneously other substances such as heroin, and crack. Thus, it can deduce the devastating effects of the use of opium greater than use of methamphetamine in the perceived

body image. As stated in the present finding research, like body image, the average of sexual satisfaction in non-substance abuser group is higher than methamphetamine and opium abuser group. This result is in line with previous research (43, 47,51,52,53). According to Rawsen et al. (2002), fewer opiate users reported their sexual thoughts, feelings, and behaviors were often linked with their drug use and a greater number of MA users reported their sexual performance was improved and sexual pleasure was enhanced by their drug use. A greater number of MA users reported their drug use had made them obsessed with sex and/or made their sex drive abnormally high. Additionally, fewer opiate users, compared to cocaine users, reported their drug use had made them obsessed with sex and/or made their sex drive abnormally high (43). Bang-Ping (52) showed that in three groups of the substance user (heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy) amphetamine abuser group has reported more have enhanced sexual desire. Stand on the

present findings and previous researches suggest that the therapist recognize the importance of sexual satisfaction in addiction treatment, as it is one of the obstacles in improvement in the addiction treatment. This research has two limitations; the definitive limitation that should be considered in current results is the amphetamine and opium abuser groups have used simultaneously another substance. Another limitation is the performance of the questionnaires was not similar during research, some questionnaire completed by researcher, and other completed by subjects due to cultural issues and the humiliation of subjects referred to object of research.

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