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**SEXUAL EXPERIENCES IN SWEDISH WOMEN.**

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The aim of this work was to explore the sexual experiences in women with insulin dependant diabetes mellitus (IDDM) and in age-matched controls (C).

**SUBJECTS AND METHODS:** Forty-two women with IDDM (median age 37.5 years, range 27 - 50), with a duration of diabetes of more than one year, and 42 age-matched controls without diabetes or neurological diseases, were interviewed regarding their sexual experiences thorough life.

Age at onset of diabetes varied between 4 - 41 years ( median 16) and duration of disease was 3 - 38 years (median 20 years).

Seventy controls (62.5%) and 34 patients (44.7%) declined participation in the study.

**RESULTS:** Medianage at menarche was 13 years, first masturbation at 13.5, first sexual intercourse at 16, and first orgasm at 17 years. They had median 2 children (range 1-4), and there were nine (IDDM) and five (C) nulliparous. Their maximun frequence of sexual intercourses per month was median 15. Median for masturbation frequence was 2 (IDDM) and 3.5 (C), but mode for both groups were zero. They had experienced more than one orgasm on one sexual occasion and the median was 2 orgasms, but the range was 0-20. They had had median 4 (IDDM) and 5 (C) male sexual partners, range 0 - 150, mode 3 and 4 respectively.

The controls had a more positive experience of the first menstruation  $p < 0.05$  and the latest delivery  $p < 0.05$ . The experience of the first sexual intercourse did not differ between the groups. One woman with diabetes had never had sexual intercourse. Three women with diabetes had had a casual female sexual partner. Two women with diabetes had never had an orgasm. The women found their partners genital caresses most effective to give orgasms 18 (IDDM) and 17 (C), second best was vaginal sexual intercourse 8 (IDDM) and 12 (C) and third best was own masturbation 8 (IDDM) and 7 (C), after which came oral stimulation 5 (IDDM) and 4 (C). Only one woman in each group was able to experience orgasms just by breast stimulation. One woman having herpes genitalis told she became extra sensitive at activation of infection then having 5 orgasms instead of one.

95% of the seventy-six women having stable sexual relationships were satisfied with their partners. The reasons, they said, were that the partners did to them what they wanted them to do!

92.9%(IDDM) and 95.2% (C) found it positive to take part in the interview.

**SUMMARY:** No significant inter-group differences in demographics and early sexological case histories were found. We know that sexual problems are overrepresented in the diabetic group of women later in life. The results of this study does not support the idea that these sexual problems have its origin in early sexual experiences, but in a few cases.