



Letter to the Editor

Response to: Assessing sexual dysfunction in men with epilepsy: A need for specific tools!


To the Editor

We thank Dr. Calabrò et al. for their insightful comments. We fully agree that the three-phase approach suggested in 2014 [1] (anamnesis, physical examination, and instrumental investigation) is essential in the diagnoses of sexual dysfunction (SD) in men with and men without epilepsy. Rather than focusing on diagnosis, our study aimed at validating an instrument that may eventually assist with screening of men at risk for SD, specifically in those with epilepsy.

We were pleasantly surprised that 164 men with epilepsy completed the survey in only 3 months. This suggests both a prevalence of concern for sexual health and a willingness to disclose information related to sexual health. This aligns with previous suggestions that practitioners may be more reluctant than patients regarding discussions about SD [2]. In concert with communication skills noted by Buelow, Miller, & Fishman [3], a screening tool may help create the setting for crucial conversations that will ultimately aid in identification and treatment of SD.

References

- [1] Calabro RS, Polimeni G, Bramanti P. Recent advances in the treatment of neurogenic erectile dysfunction. *Recent Pat CNS Drug Discov* 2014;9:41–53.
- [2] Calabro RS. Discussing sexual health in patients with epilepsy: clinicians don't ask, patients sometimes tell! *Epilepsy Behav* 2016;55:69.
- [3] Buelow J, Miller W, Fishman J. Development of an epilepsy nursing communication tool: improving the quality of interactions between nurses and patients with seizures. *J Neurosci Nurs* 2018;50:74–80.

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