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Matilde Meireles Bertão

Female Sexual Dysfunction and Distress in Migraine:
Results from a Tertiary Referral Hospital

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TÍTULO DISSERTAÇÃO/~~MONOGRAFIA~~ (riscar o que não interessa)

Female Sexual Dysfunction and Distress in Migraine: Results from a Tertiary Referral Hospital

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Neste sentido, confirmo que a eventual utilização de ferramentas de *chatbox* generativo baseadas em *large language models* no contexto do meu trabalho de Dissertação ou Monografia foi exclusivamente descrita na sequência de *prompts* e respostas transcritos em anexo e nas aplicações indicadas.

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Matilde Meireles Bertão

Dedicatória

Peço ao tempo, que corra devagar

Um lugar a que possa voltar.

Clã 38 – Agrupamento 572 Mindelo

Em primeiro lugar, gostaria de agradecer à Dra. Andreia por ter aceitado o convite para orientar esta dissertação. Desde o 4º ano de faculdade, enquanto aluna, encontrei na Dra. Andreia a competência e dedicação para com a profissão e o ensino que tornaram esta escolha clara. Quero ainda agradecer à Dra. Bárbara por se ter juntado a este projeto e ajudado a cada passo do caminho. A ambas, um grande agradecimento por todo o apoio e compreensão na elaboração desta tese.

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A todos os que fizeram e fazem parte do crescimento desta menina mulher, que *é quase doutora*, o meu mais sincero e comovido: Obrigada!

Female Sexual Dysfunction and Distress in Migraine: Results from a Tertiary Referral Hospital

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Abstract

Background: Female sexual dysfunction (FSD) is an underdiagnosed and undertreated problem. Few studies have addressed sexual distress in migraine. We aim to determine if there is an association between migraine and sexual dysfunction/distress and to identify their respective risk factors.

Methods: Retrospective, cross-sectional study, including 71 premenopausal female patients with migraine, followed in a tertiary hospital, and 34 age-matched-controls. Female Sexual Function Index-6 (FSFI-6), Female Sexual Distress Scale-Revised (FSDS-R), Migraine Disability Assessment (MIDAS) Scale, Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) and Sleep Health Scale (RU-SATED) were applied.

Results: Of the 71 patients [40.0 (IQR=11.00) years], only 12.7% (n=9) were not under migraine prophylactic treatment; 62.3% (n=33) reported severe disability (MIDAS-IV). FSD and sexual distress were present in 50.7% (36) patients with migraine [vs 20.6% (7) controls]. Migraine patients showed lower FSFI-6 scores [19.0 (9.0) vs 24.0 (6.0), $p=0.005$], with significantly lower levels of desire ($p=0.011$), lubrication ($p=0.002$), and satisfaction ($p=0.013$), higher sexual distress [11.2 (25.6) vs 3.2 (9.6), $p=0.001$], anxiety ($p<0.001$), and depression ($p<0.001$) levels, and lower sleep health scores ($p=0.005$). Old age of onset, being under preventive medication, anxiety/depression, and dysfunctional sleep, were significantly associated to sexual distress. Certain domains of sexual function were associated with sociodemographic and migraine characteristics, anxiety, depression, and sleep health.

Conclusions: This study highlights the association between migraine and elevated sexual dysfunction/distress levels among premenopausal women. It underscores the importance of sexual health assessments in these individuals, mainly the ones with higher levels of anxiety, depression, or experiencing poor sleep quality.

Keywords: Female Sexual Dysfunction; Sexual Distress; Migraine; Anxiety; Depression; Sleep Health

Background

Sexual health is regarded by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity” [1]. This major dimension of global health is linked to various aspects of general well-being, such as the physical and psychological health of individuals, sociodemographic characteristics, cultural beliefs, and the quality and stability of interpersonal relationships [2].

Sexual dysfunction is characterized by persistent or recurrent difficulties during the sexual response cycle that prevent individuals from experiencing satisfaction with sexual activity, associated with psychological suffering and negative impact on interpersonal relationships [3, 4]. This is an underdiagnosed and undertreated but very common problem [3, 4]. Although there is limited literature on its incidence, particularly in women, a global prevalence of 40-50% of sexual dysfunction in females is estimated, regardless of age [5]. Female sexual dysfunction (FSD) can be divided into sexual desire/interest, arousal, orgasm, and pain disorders [6, 7]. The presence of sexual distress, which includes experiencing negative emotional responses such as frustration, worry, guilt, anxiety, or discomfort regarding own sexual life, is a necessary condition for the diagnosis of FSD [3, 4]. The assessment of this construct has been increasingly recognized by clinicians, as it is a central but separate component of sexual dysfunction and a determinant of individuals' sexual health.

Chronic neurological diseases [8, 9] and pain-associated syndromes [10-12] can affect sexual and social functions. Migraine is the second most frequent cause of seeking medical attention for a headache, after tension-type headache, but the first when the headache promotes a recurrence to the emergency department [13]. Its global prevalence is 14-15%, being three times more common in women [13]. With a significant peak burden at 35-39 years old, it constitutes the leading cause of disability worldwide in females under 50 years [14]. However, studies showed contradictory results regarding the impact of headache characteristics on sexual function in women with migraine; some found a significant relationship between migraine and FSD [15-17], while others reported no relationship between the two conditions [18-21]. Additionally, only two studies have addressed the presence of sexual distress in women with migraine, an issue that requires further investigation [16, 20]. Thus, this work aimed to evaluate if migraine is associated with higher levels of FSD and sexual distress in premenopausal women, compared to a female sample without migraine. Secondly, it was intended to uncover which domains of sexual health are more affected

in migraineurs, and what are the possible clinical factors associated with sexual dysfunction/distress in migraine patients.

Methods

Study Design, Population and Data Collection

We performed a single-centre, retrospective cross-sectional study, at a tertiary hospital in the north of Portugal. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee and the Administration Board of Unidade Local de Saúde São João - Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João.

The participants were adult premenopausal female patients, with a diagnosis of episodic or chronic migraine performed by a neurologist, according to the 3rd edition of the International Classification of Headache Disorders [22], followed at the Neurology outpatient clinic, between June and December 2023. The control group was constituted of healthy premenopausal women, without migraine, obtained through a community sample, paired by age. Patients and controls who could not read or collaborate, and those who refused to participate in the study, were excluded. Patients with another type of headache that is not migraine (excluding migraine accompanied by medication overuse headache), with chronic disorders which may affect sexual function (diabetes mellitus, uncontrolled thyroid dysfunction or any other endocrinological abnormalities, rheumatic, systemic inflammatory or neoplastic diseases, and severe psychiatric disorders [23]), with substance use disorders and/or chronic alcoholism, and women that were pregnant, breastfeeding, in the puerperium, undergoing fertility treatments or not sexually active, were also excluded.

Participants who meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria and gave informed consent filled out a form composed of sociodemographic data (age, education level, employment status, marital status, and number of children), baseline health status (cardiovascular risk factors, psychiatric/sleep disorders, and contraceptive methods) and migraine-related data (first onset, frequency, presence of aura, and current medication).

Questionnaires

Standardized self-administered questionnaires were answered by both groups at a single time point, through an online form sent by text message. The first two questionnaires, regarding migraine characteristics, including disability assessment and pain, were only applied to patients with migraine, while FSD, female sexual distress, anxiety, depression, and sleep health scales were applied to all the participants. All the questionnaires are validated for the Portuguese population.

Migraine Disability Assessment (MIDAS) Scale is a reliable tool used for evaluating migraine-related disability. It includes five questions investigating the impact of migraine on everyday activities in the past three months, resulting in minimal (0-5), mild (6-10), moderate (11-20), or severe (>20) disability [24]. A complementary measure is the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), which we use in its pain intensity section, where the patient is asked to score from 0 to 10 their worst, least, average, and current pain intensity [25].

Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) is a 19-item questionnaire investigating the domains of sexual desire, arousal, lubrication, orgasm, satisfaction, and pain, during the last four weeks. We used its short version, which is a selection of 6 items from the total scale (FSFI-6), one for each domain, ranging from 0 or 1 to 5 points, considering ≤ 19 as a FSD [26]. To evaluate the sexual activity-related personal distress in women over the last four weeks, we used the Female Sexual Distress Scale-Revised (FSDS-R), a 13-item outcome measure. Items are scored from 0 to 4 (never, rarely, occasionally, frequently, or always, respectively), considering a cut-off score of ≥ 11 a good indicator of sexual distress [27].

Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) comprises 14 items, scored from 0 to 3, including subscales for anxiety (HADS-A) and depression (HADS-D), in the past week. A score of ≤ 7 means there is no sign of anxiety or depression; 8–10 indicates mild or borderline cases; ≥ 11 indicates anxiety or depression [28].

To evaluate sleep health we used the Regularity, Satisfaction, Alertness, Timing, Efficiency, and Duration Sleep Health Scale (RU-SATED). The items of this scale can be summed up to have a single score ranging from 0 (poor sleep health) to 30 (good sleep health) [29].

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using the IBM® Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS®) software, version 26. For the descriptive analysis, we determined the frequency and percentage of categorical variables. Quantitative variables were presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation (SD) if normally distributed, or median and interquartile range (IQR) if otherwise. We used the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test to assess the normality of distribution. For inferential analysis, we used the Chi-square test for categorical variables, except in the case of having an expected count less than 5 in more than 20% of cells in the contingency table, where Fisher's exact test was used, and Independent Samples T-test (parametric test) or Mann-Whitney U test (non-parametric test) for quantitative variables. Spearman's correlation test was used for correlation analysis between continuous variables. The *p* values presented are for a two-tailed test and a *p* value of ≤ 0.05 was defined as statistically significant.

Results

Patient and control recruitment and selection processes are represented in Fig. 1. We identified 189 potentially eligible patients through hospital electronic records; 106 (response rate of 56.1%) agreed to participate in the study. Of these 106 patients, 71 (67.0%) met the inclusion criteria, 17 (16.0%) were excluded because of their comorbidities, 1 (0.9%) was pregnant/breastfeeding, 6 (5.7%) were postmenopausal women, and 11 (10.4%) were not sexually active. From the community sample that completed the form, 34 age-matched controls were included. The study gathered a total of 105 participants.

Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics

The sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the sample are presented in Table 1. Migraine patients' ages ranged from 21 to 53 years old, with a median age of 40.0 years (IQR=11.0). This group less frequently had a higher education level compared to controls [41 (57.7%) vs 28 (82.4%), $p=0.045$], with no other significant difference regarding sociodemographic data. In both groups, most were married or were in a stable relationship [56 (78.9%) vs 26 (76.5%), $p=0.763$], and had at least one child [44 (62.0%) vs. 18 (52.9%), $p=0.205$].

Regarding clinical features, patients with migraine had higher levels of insomnia [25 (35.2%) vs 4 (11.8%), $p=0.012$], with no statistically significant differences for cardiovascular risk factors, anxiety,

depression, and other sleep disorders. Combined oral contraceptive pill [used in 17 (23.9%) migraineurs vs 16 (47.1%) controls], copper intrauterine device [10 (14.1%) vs 4 (11.8%)], and male condom [8 (11.3%) vs 8 (23.5%)] were the most used contraceptive methods, with only statistically significant differences between groups found for the use of the oral contraceptive pill ($p=0.017$).

Migraine characteristics are displayed in Table 2. Most migraine patients (44, 62.0%) had their headache onset in adulthood. The majority (47, 66.2%) suffered from headache 4 to 15 days per month, and 10 (14.1%) had headache more than half of the month. Only 9 (12.7%) were not receiving migraine preventive treatment. Among those under treatment, the largest group belongs to those under anti-Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) receptor/ligand monoclonal antibodies (28, 39.4%), followed by oral preventive medication (25, 35.2%), botulinum toxin A injections (20, 28.2%) and occipital nerve blocks (6, 8.5%). Most patients (35, 49.3%) needed rescue medication 4 to 9 days per month; 5 (7.0%) needed it more than 15 days per month. The median score of the MIDAS Scale was 28.0 (IQR=41.0), with 33 (62.3%) patients reporting severe disability of headache (MIDAS-IV). Regarding the intensity of pain, according to the BPI, the median worst pain was 7.0 (IQR=2.0) and the median average pain was 5.0 (IQR=3.0), respectively (Table 2).

Female sexual dysfunction and distress, anxiety, depression, and health sleep

Of the 71 patients with migraine, 36 (50.7%) reported having sexual dysfunction, measured by an FSFI-6 score of 19 or lower, compared to 7 controls (20.6%). In addition to lower total FSFI-6 scores [19.0 (IQR=9.0) vs 24.0 (IQR=6.0), $p=0.005$], these patients showed significantly lower desire [3.0 (IQR=2.0) vs 3.5 (IQR=1.0), $p=0.011$], lubrication [4.0 (IQR=2.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=1.0), $p=0.002$], and satisfaction levels [3.0 (IQR=2.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.013$], with no statistically significant differences between groups concerning arousal ($p=0.218$), orgasm ($p=0.098$), and pain ($p=0.166$) domains. Migraine patients also had more frequent sexual distress, with 36 (50.7%) of them showing scores of 11 or higher on the FSDS-R scale compared to 7 (20.6%) in the control group [total score of 11.2 (IQR=25.6) vs 3.2 (IQR=9.6), $p=0.001$].

Anxiety and depression levels were significantly higher in migraineurs [10.0 (IQR=6.0) vs 5.0 (IQR=6.0), $p<0.001$, for anxiety, and 7.0 (IQR=7.0) vs 2.0 (IQR=3.0), $p<0.001$, for depression], with lower sleep health scores in this group [18.0 (IQR=12.0) vs 23.5 (IQR=9.0), $p=0.005$]. The previous results are all explored in Table 3.

Patients with migraine were then categorized according to the presence of FSD (FSFI-6 $\leq$ 19) and sexual distress (FSDS-R $\geq$ 11) (Table 4). Comparing migraineurs with and without sexual distress, the first ones more frequently had headache onset in adulthood [19 (52.8%) vs 8 (22.9%), respectively, $p=0.014$], and were more often under oral preventive medication [18 (50.0%) vs 7 (20.0%), respectively, $p=0.008$]. Migraineurs reporting FSD were also more often under oral preventive medication than the ones with no FSD [18 (50.0%) vs 7 (20.0%), $p=0.008$]. Despite that, no significant differences between having or no FSD/sexual distress were found regarding other migraine characteristics, including migraine-related disability, frequency, and intensity of pain (except for current pain, see Table 4). On the other hand, patients with FSD/sexual distress had higher anxiety [FSD+: 12.0 (IQR=6.0) vs FSD-: 9.0 (IQR=5.0), $p=0.023$; Distress+: 12.0 (IQR=5.0) vs Distress-: 8.0 (IQR=5.0), $p=0.002$] and depression [FSD+: 8.56 (SD=4.48) vs FSD-: 4.86 (SD=3.40), $p<0.001$; Distress+: 10.0 (IQR=5.0) vs Distress-: 4.0 (IQR=6.0), $p<0.001$] levels. Lower levels of sleep health were portrayed by patients with sexual distress [Distress+: 15.47 (SD=7.09) vs Distress-: 20.46 (SD=5.64), $p=0.002$], which also showed statistically significant differences concerning the presence of insomnia, compared to patients without sexual distress [18 (50.0%) vs 7 (20.0%), $p=0.008$].

Female Sexual Dysfunction per domain

Finally, migraine patients were compared according to individual sexual domains.

Having higher education level was significantly associated with higher levels of desire [3.0 (IQR=2.0) vs 2.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.013$] and arousal [4.0 (IQR=1.0) vs 3.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.003$], and to be employed with lower levels of sexual pain [0.5 (IQR=3.0) vs 3.0 (IQR=4.0), $p=0.044$]. Suffering from insomnia was significantly associated with lower levels of arousal [3.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=1.0), $p=0.013$] and lubrication [3.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.034$].

Concerning migraine characteristics, having headache more than 15 days/month was associated with lower levels of arousal [2.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 3.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.050$], and severe disability (MIDAS-IV) with higher levels of sexual pain [2.0 (IQR=4.0) vs 0.0 (IQR=3.0), $p=0.030$]. Patients under migraine oral preventive medication showed significantly lower levels of desire [2.0 (IQR=2.0) vs 3.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.002$], arousal [3.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 3.5 (IQR=1.0), $p=0.020$], lubrication [3.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=2.0), $p=0.002$] and satisfaction [3.0 (IQR=3.0) vs 4.0 (IQR=1.0), $p=0.007$] comparing with those with other or no treatment.

Table 5 shows the correlation results between sexual function domains and responses to questionnaires. Patient age was not correlated to any domain of FSD. Sexual distress scores were strongly correlated to all domains of sexual function ($p<0.001$), with a negative correlation to desire ($\rho=-0.429$), arousal ($\rho=-0.457$), lubrication ($\rho=-0.399$), orgasm ($\rho=-0.418$) and satisfaction ($\rho=-0.481$), and a positive correlation to sexual pain ($\rho=0.435$). Migraine disability, accessed by MIDAS Score, was positively correlated to sexual pain ($\rho=-0.312$, $p=0.023$), and current pain scores were negatively correlated to desire ($\rho=-0.240$, $p=0.043$); other pain scores had no statistically significant correlation to any sexual domain. Anxiety was negatively correlated to desire ($\rho=-0.322$, $p=0.006$), arousal ($\rho=-0.350$, $p=0.003$) and satisfaction ($\rho=-0.290$, $p=0.014$). Depression was negatively correlated to desire ($\rho=-0.509$, $p<0.001$), arousal ($\rho=-0.512$, $p<0.001$), lubrication ($\rho=-0.321$, $p=0.006$), orgasm ($\rho=-0.382$, $p=0.001$) and satisfaction ($\rho=-0.455$, $p<0.001$). Good sleep health was negatively correlated to pain ($\rho=-0.259$, $p=0.029$).

Discussion

Migraine patients display higher levels of sexual dysfunction; it is particularly true in three domains of sexual function - desire, lubrication, and satisfaction –, and sexual distress. At baseline, these patients had lower education levels, a higher prevalence of insomnia, and less use of combined oral contraceptive pills compared to age-matched controls. Within the migraine group, patients with sexual dysfunction were those who presented greater anxiety and depression (with a negative correlation of anxiety and depression with the sexual domains of sexual desire, arousal, and satisfaction, and depression with lubrication and orgasm), with no differences for other potential risk factors. Additionally, regarding sexual distress, patients more frequently presented migraine onset symptoms in adulthood (vs onset in childhood/adolescence), and had higher levels of sleep dysfunction, namely insomnia. Regarding sexual domains, having insomnia was associated with lower levels of arousal and lubrication, having a headache frequency of more than 15 days/month with lower levels of arousal, having a severe headache with higher levels of sexual pain. Being on preventive migraine medication was associated with both sexual dysfunction and distress, affecting desire, arousal, lubrication, and satisfaction levels. Good sleep health had been positively correlated to total FSFI-6 scores.

Sexual dysfunction and migraine are both prevalent disorders, which separately represent a serious burden on patients' lives, with a significant impact on their quality of life. The migraine-sexual dysfunction

binomial is not a recent concept, as can be discerned from the vast literature that attempts to interpret the aetiology of FSD and the factors that modulate it. However, this study aimed to standardize the information known, with the presence of a control group and a validated instrument, the FSFI, as previous studies only had one of these components [15, 16, 18-21]; furthermore, we focused on understanding sexual distress, addressed in only two studies [16, 20], as a central concept, since it is essential for the understanding of female sexuality as a whole, including the suffering arising from sexual problems. We also considered the addition of sleep health in this equation, a parameter that has only been investigated once [30]. Finally, we also aim to compare migraine characteristics with the different domains of FSD, as the most recent literature focuses on the absence of association of these risk factors with the overall scores of FSFI and FSDS-R; a deeper investigation of this relationship is necessary.

The prevalence of sexual dysfunction was more than twice as high as that found in the control group (50.7% vs 20.6%). This frequency aligns with previous studies, that rated FSD among female migraine patients between 41.8-90% [16, 21]; the varying prevalence rates may be related to different definitions of sexual dysfunction, a wide variety of measurement tools used, cultural and environmental factors, and the inclusion of postmenopausal patients in former studies (which likely includes other confounders that affect this measure). According to epidemiologic research, the worldwide prevalence of FSD in premenopausal women is estimated to be 40.9% [31]; the lower percentage obtained in our control group might be due to social and demographic factors. The distress percentage was also 50.7%, in line with the range seen in other studies in migraine patients 29-67.2% [16, 20] and in young women [32]; this value seems reliable due to an openness and interest on the part of the participants in addressing the issues in their sexual lives and, more broadly, the limitations they feel due to migraine.

Menopause is the most studied condition in the context of FSD from an organic standpoint as it is an explicit state of hormonal deprivation [33]. Conditions associated with hormonal changes at menopause, such as vulvovaginal atrophy and hypoactive sexual desire disorder, have a significant impact on sexual function and quality of life [33]. Since menopause is a well-known risk factor for FSD and migraine peaks in women of reproductive ages, this study was only performed in premenopausal patients.

Sexual satisfaction is influenced not only by individual and relational factors but also by individuals' social and cultural environment. This constitutes an adaptation from the ecological theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1994) [34], organized into four interrelated levels: the microsystem (gender, age, self-

esteem, depression, child sexual abuse, internalized homophobia), the mesosystem (relationship satisfaction, communication, sexual functioning), the exosystem (parenthood, social support, socioeconomic status), and the macrosystem (political ideology, religious beliefs) [2]. We found an association between higher education and higher levels of desire and arousal; we also detected that employment was associated with lower levels of sexual pain. Higher education constitutes a protective factor for arousal disorder in gender-equal regimes; in this study, particularly, it constitutes a protective factor for all domains and global FSD [35]. Employment has an unclear effect on FSD, with mixed results in previous studies [35]. We did not find a relation between age, marital status, and number/presence of children. Approaching other variables from the ecological theory in patients with migraine could be interesting research for the future.

Although the limited data provided by our sample regarding cardiovascular risk factors and contraceptive methods, some remarks can be made. The only obese participant in our study had migraine, FSD, and distress, with low scores in every sexual domain. Of the overweight patients with migraine, four (57.1%) had FSD, and five (71.4%) experienced sexual distress. Obesity and overweight are important risk factors for FSD [36], however, rates of FSD do not differ in obese women with and without migraine [37]. There is a statistical difference regarding the choice of contraception between migraine patients and controls, with the latter having a higher frequency of use of the combined oral contraceptive pill. Exogenous hormones may change the course of migraine by inducing new migraine, new aura, and worsening previous migraine, but also improving migraine, particularly those attacks related to menstruation [38]; worsening of migraine symptoms may be the reason for patients to avoid this method. Nonetheless, migraine patients who use the combined oral pill did not experience significant differences in terms of headache frequency, presence of aura, severity, pain, prophylactic treatment, or necessity of rescue medication. Within the migraine sample, we did not obtain a significant association between the use of the oral combined pill, the presence of sexual dysfunction/distress, and FSFI-6 domain scores.

Anxiety and depression are prevalent among migraine patients. Adults with migraine are two to four times more likely to experience depression and anxiety compared to the general population [39]. Patients and controls reported, at baseline, a prevalence of anxiety and depression of 22.5% and 23.9% (migraine), respectively, and 20.6% and 8.8% (controls). Completing the HADS Scale, these percentages rose to 71.8%, 42.3%, 26.5%, and 11.8%, respectively, with the migraine sample having a 2.7 higher presence of anxiety and a 3.6 higher presence of depression than controls. Anxiety and depression scores

were statistically higher in the migraine group compared to controls and statistically associated with the presence of FSD and distress within the migraine group. They were also correlated to FSD domains: desire, arousal, and satisfaction (both), and lubrication and orgasm (depression). Our findings were supported by previous studies that detected an association between at least one of these comorbidities and total FSD and/or domains [19, 21, 30, 37], and contradict the ones that did not find a relation [16, 20], all regarding migraine patients. According to Nappi et. al [16], sexual distress was neither associated with anxiety nor depression; indeed, Kucukdurmaz et al. [20] found a significant association between distress and depression, but not anxiety. Thus, we defend that both comorbidities constitute important risk factors in FSD and its domains, as well as sexual distress.

Ghajarzadeh et. al [30] conducted the only study to combine the variables of FSD, depression, and sleep health in patients with migraine; however, a lengthier instrument for sleep health evaluation was used, and the variables of sexual distress and anxiety were not addressed, as well as the presence of sleep disorders, such as insomnia. Available literature suggests a bidirectional relationship between migraine and insomnia, independent of anxiety and depression. Insomnia is a risk factor for migraine onset and increased migraine impact, pain intensity, and frequency; moreover, migraineurs are at increased risk of developing insomnia [40]. In compliance with our results, it is imperative to highlight the relation between sleep dysfunction and feelings of sexual distress since patients with sexual distress had a significantly higher presence of insomnia and lower levels of sleep health scores. The same did not occur when we compared patients with and without FSD. Nonetheless, patients suffering from insomnia had significantly lower levels of arousal and lubrication, and in a complementary way higher sleep health scores were correlated to lower levels of sexual distress and sexual pain. Routine assessment of insomnia complaints in patients with migraine and implementation of customized pharmacological and non-pharmacological insomnia treatments would be beneficial in reducing migraine burden and sexual suffering.

Lastly, we will center our attention on discussing one of the main aims of this study: to evaluate if the presence of sexual dysfunction/distress in migraine patients is associated with migraine characteristics and treatment. All previous studies with a control sample [15, 17-19] also verified statistically significant higher levels of FSD in patients with migraine. Regarding specific domains, and using different validated tools, Ifergane et. al [15] found lower levels of satisfaction and higher levels of sexual pain in patients with migraine, Bestepe et. al [18] showed lower sex drive, arousal, vaginal lubrication, ability to reach orgasm and orgasmic satisfaction in this population, and Solmaz et. al [17] and Dogan et. al [19] utilized the FSFI

and obtained significantly lower levels of every domain in patients with migraine. Current evidence regarding a direct influence of migraine characteristics in FSD is controversial: while a few former studies have shown a relationship [15-17], others report no association between the two conditions [18-21, 30, 37]. According to Ifergane et. al [15], migraine-related severity was found to be significantly correlated to higher scores of health influence on sexual life. Indeed, Solmaz et. al [17] found that a percentage increase in FSD was observed as the frequency of headache attacks and the number of painful years increased, however, this consideration was not statistically significant. In our study, we found a statistically significant relation between migraine first onset and sexual distress, with first occurrence in adulthood being associated with a higher presence of sexual distress. We also discovered that the presence of FSD was associated with higher levels of current migraine pain. Other migraine characteristics were not a direct risk factor for either the presence of FSD or distress. Despite this fact, significant associations were discovered when comparing domains: a headache frequency of more than 15 days/month demonstrated an association with lower levels of sexual arousal, and migraine-related severe disability (MIDAS-IV) showed a relation with higher levels of sexual pain. Regarding domain correlations, migraine-related disability, assessed by MIDAS Score, was positively correlated to sexual pain; BPI's current pain scores were negatively correlated to desire. Investigating the impact of prophylactic treatments poses a challenge, as they may be related to FSD [23] and are being excluded from some studies on account of possible interference [17, 19]. In this study, the use of oral preventive medication showed an association with the presence of FSD and sexual distress, besides correlating to lower levels of desire, arousal, lubrication, and satisfaction. Through our research, we were unable to find solid, exhaustive, comprehensive data assessing the relationship between FSD and migraine characteristics, as well as adverse effects of migraine preventive medication in women's sexual health, outside of observational cross-sectional studies. Further research is necessary to better characterize the relation between migraine features and treatment with FSD, sexual domains, and sexual distress, in premenopausal, perimenopausal, and postmenopausal patients.

This study had also some limitations that may impact the generalizability of these results, including a sample from a single tertiary hospital. The control group had a reduced number of participants, due to age-matching, and had higher levels of education. Thus, it is important to expand it to a more diverse control group, specifically in terms of age and educational status, and consider more variables from the ecological theory of sexual satisfaction [2]. Retrospective data was collected through self-administered questionnaires, which may lead to recall bias. The inability to assess patients' partners in terms of their

sexual function, emotions, and comorbidities also constitutes an obstacle. Further, this study only focused on sexual dysfunction and distress of sexually active individuals, however, sexuality is influenced not only by interpersonal relationships but also by one's sexual self-concept. Lastly, this was a cross-sectional study, which limits the conclusions that can be made. Longitudinal studies are needed to further assess the long-term relationships among migraine characteristics and treatment, sexual dysfunction and distress, anxiety, depression, and sleep health over time.

Conclusions

This study highlights the association between migraine and high levels of sexual dysfunction and distress among premenopausal women, as well as high rates of depression, anxiety, and sleep dysfunction. In migraine patients, the presence of insomnia, late age of symptoms onset, and use of preventive medication were significantly related to sexual distress. Education, employment, migraine frequency, current pain, and related pain disability, preventive medication, anxiety, depression, and sleep health were associated with one or more sexual domains of FSD.

With this investigation's results, we advocate that both sexual dysfunction and distress should be addressed and screened upon the diagnosis of migraine. Such evaluations can facilitate tailored interventions to improve both migraine management and overall well-being.

Statements and Declarations

Authors contributions

MB, BM, and AC conceptualized and designed the study. MB was responsible for data search and analysis. MB wrote the original draft of the manuscript. Important data analysis suggestions were made by BM and AC. Manuscript revisions and editing were made by BM and AC. All authors contributed significantly to the creation of this manuscript.

Ethics approval and Informed consent

This study was performed following the principles of the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments. Approval was granted by the Ethics Committee of *Unidade Local de Saúde de São João* (02/11/2023; nº 263/2023) and by the Data Protection Officer. Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

Data availability

All data generated or analysed during the study are included in this article.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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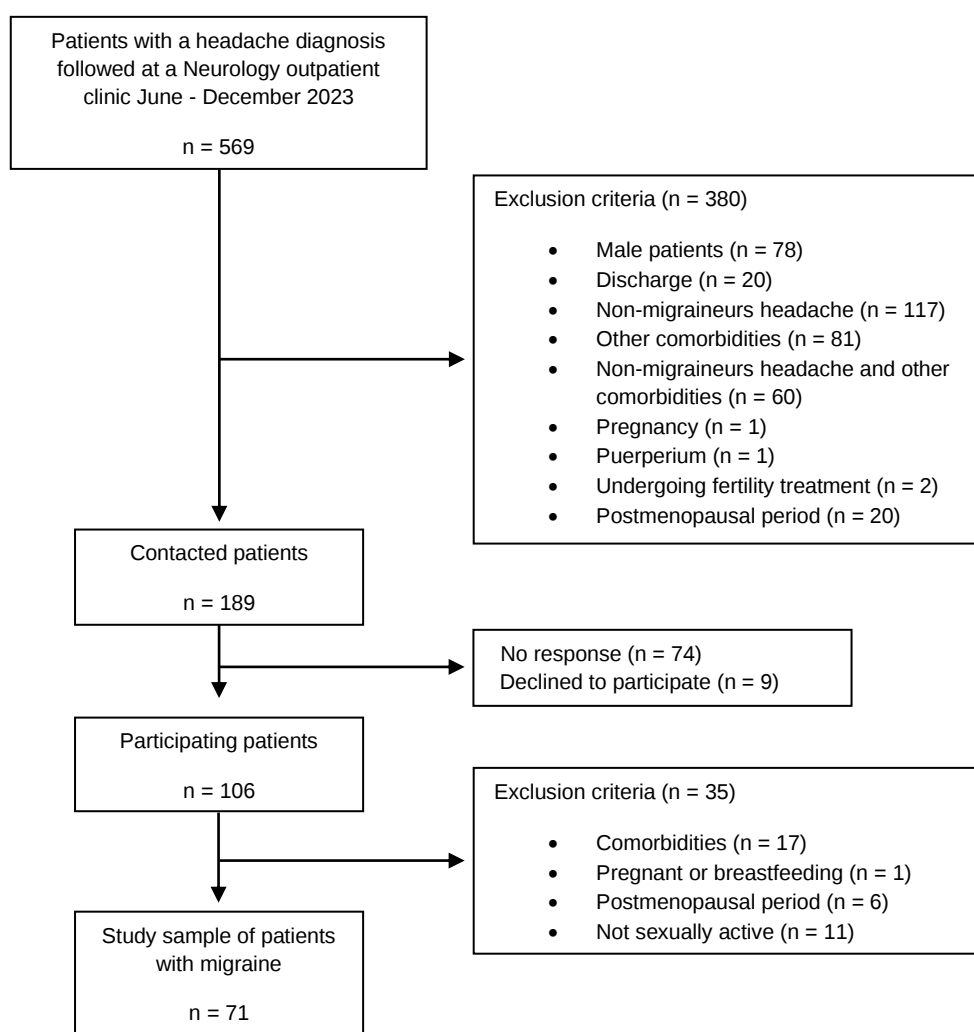
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a) Patient sample selection



b) Control sample selection

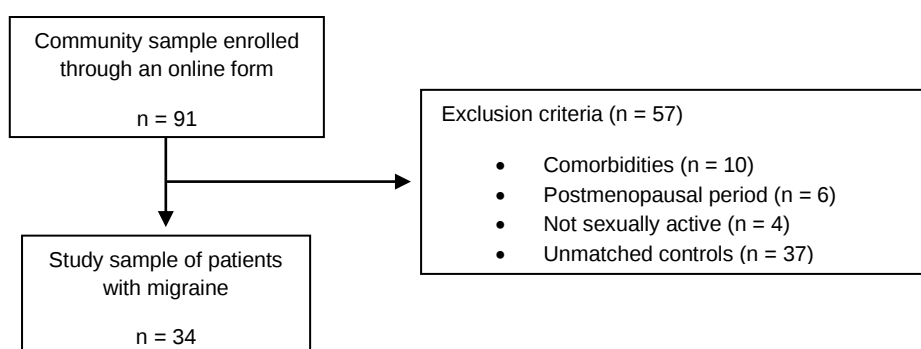


Fig. 1 Flow diagram of study recruitment, participation, and exclusion criteria of **(a)** patients with migraine and **(b)** controls.

Table 1 Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the participants.

	Migraine sample (n = 71)	Control sample (n = 34)	<i>p</i> value
Age, in years, median (IQR)	40.0 (11.0)	41.0 (13.0)	0.358*
Education, n (%)			0.045**
Basic Education	11 (15.5)	2 (5.9)	
Secondary Education	19 (26.8)	4 (11.8)	
Higher Education	41 (57.7)	28 (82.4)	
Employment Status, n (%)			1.000***
Employee	60 (84.5)	30 (88.2)	
Self-employed	4 (5.6)	1 (2.9)	
Unemployed	4 (5.6)	1 (2.9)	
Student	3 (4.2)	2 (5.9)	
Marital Status, n (%)			0.763***
Married or in a stable relationship	56 (78.9)	26 (76.5)	
Divorced	2 (2.8)	2 (5.9)	
Single	13 (18.3)	6 (17.6)	
Number of children, n (%)			0.205***
None	27 (38.0)	16 (47.1)	
One	14 (19.7)	4 (11.8)	
Two	28 (39.4)	10 (29.4)	
Three	2 (2.8)	3 (8.8)	
Four or more	0 (0.0)	1 (2.9)	
Cardiovascular risk factors, n (%)			
Pre-obesity	7 (9.9)	8 (23.5)	0.135***
Obesity	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Arterial hypertension	4 (5.6)	0 (0.0)	0.213***
Smoking	8 (11.3)	4 (11.8)	1.000***
Dyslipidemia	6 (8.5)	2 (5.9)	0.721***
Sedentarism	6 (8.5)	5 (14.7)	0.497***
Psychiatric symptoms, n (%)			
Anxiety	16 (22.5)	7 (20.6)	0.821**
Depression	17 (23.9)	3 (8.8)	0.065**
Sleep disturbances, n (%)			
Insomnia	25 (35.2)	4 (11.8)	0.012**
Sleepwalking	2 (2.8)	1 (2.9)	1.000***
Restless Legs Syndrome	3 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	0.549***
Sleep Bruxism	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Sleep Apnoea	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Hypersomnia	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Contraceptive methods, n (%)			
Combined oral contraceptive pill	17 (23.9)	16 (47.1)	0.017**
Progestogen-only pill	5 (7.0)	0 (0.0)	0.172***
Copper Intrauterine Device	10 (14.1)	4 (11.8)	1.000***
Male condoms	8 (11.3)	8 (23.5)	0.102**
Tubal ligation	7 (9.9)	2 (5.9)	0.715***
Absence of contraceptive methods	11 (15.5)	2 (5.9)	0.215***

Bold for statistically significant results.

IQR – Interquartile range; * Mann-Whitney U test; ** Chi-squared test; *** Fisher's exact test

Table 2 Clinical characterization of migraine.

	Migraine sample (n = 71)
Symptom onset time, n (%)	
Since childhood	13 (18.3)
Since adolescence	31 (43.7)
Since adulthood, < 45 years old	27 (38.0)
Since adulthood, ≥ 45 years old	0 (0.0)
Headache frequency/month, n (%)	
< 4 days	14 (19.7)
4 to 9 days	27 (38.0)
10 to 15 days	20 (28.2)
> 15 days	10 (14.1)
Presence of migraine aura, n (%)	
Present	46 (73.0)
Absent	17 (27.0)
Unknown	8
Prophylactic Treatment, n (%)	
CGRP monoclonal antibodies	28 (39.4)
Oral preventive medication	25 (35.2)
Botulinum toxin	20 (28.2)
Occipital nerve block	6 (8.5)
None	9 (12.7)
Frequency of rescue medication/month, n (%)	
< 4 days	22 (31.0)
4 to 9 days	35 (49.3)
10 to 15 days	9 (12.7)
> 15 days	5 (7.0)
MIDAS, median (IQR)	28.0 (41.0)
MIDAS I (0–5) (minimal disability)	6 (11.3)
MIDAS II (6–10) (mild disability)	5 (9.4)
MIDAS III (11–20) (moderate disability)	9 (17.0)
MIDAS IV (>20) (severe disability)	33 (62.3)
Not applicable	18
Brief Pain Inventory, median (IQR)	
Worst pain	7.0 (2.0)
Least pain	3.0 (3.0)
Pain on average	5.0 (3.0)
Current pain	2.0 (5.0)

CGRP – Calcitonin gene-related peptide; MIDAS – Migraine Disability Assessment Score;

IQR – Interquartile range

Table 3 Comparison of migraineous and non-migraineous women's responses to the questionnaires: FSFI-6, FSDS-R, HADS and RU-SATED.

	Migraine sample (n = 71)	Control sample (n = 34)	<i>p</i> value
FSFI-6, median (IQR)	19.0 (9.0)	24.0 (6.0)	0.005*
Desire, median (IQR)	3.0 (2.0)	3.5 (1.0)	0.011*
1 n (%)	14 (19.7)	1 (2.9)	
2 n (%)	14 (19.7)	5 (14.7)	
3 n (%)	22 (1.0)	11 (32.4)	
4 n (%)	18 (25.4)	15 (44.1)	
5 n (%)	3 (4.2)	2 (5.9)	
Arousal, median (IQR)	3.0 (2.0)	3.5 (1.0)	0.218*
0 n (%)	5 (7.0)	0 (0.0)	
1 n (%)	7 (9.9)	0 (0.0)	
2 n (%)	10 (14.1)	4 (11.8)	
3 n (%)	19 (26.8)	13 (38.2)	
4 n (%)	19 (26.8)	14 (41.2)	
5 n (%)	11 (15.5)	3 (8.8)	
Lubrication, median (IQR)	4.0 (2.0)	4.0 (1.0)	0.002*
0 n (%)	6 (8.5)	0 (0.0)	
1 n (%)	6 (8.5)	0 (0.0)	
2 n (%)	6 (8.5)	0 (0.0)	
3 n (%)	13 (18.3)	6 (17.6)	
4 n (%)	24 (33.8)	13 (38.2)	
5 n (%)	16 (22.5)	15 (44.1)	
Orgasm, median (IQR)	4.0 (3.0)	4.0 (2.0)	0.098*
0 n (%)	9 (12.7)	1 (2.9)	
1 n (%)	9 (12.7)	0 (0.0)	
2 n (%)	4 (5.6)	2 (5.9)	
3 n (%)	11 (15.5)	10 (29.4)	
4 n (%)	21 (29.6)	10 (29.4)	
5 n (%)	17 (23.9)	11 (32.4)	
Satisfaction, median (IQR)	3.0 (2.0)	4.0 (2.0)	0.013*
1 n (%)	15 (21.1)	0 (0.0)	
2 n (%)	5 (7.0)	4 (11.8)	
3 n (%)	17 (23.9)	6 (17.6)	
4 n (%)	23 (32.4)	15 (44.1)	
5 n (%)	11 (15.5)	9 (26.5)	
Pain, median (IQR)	1.0 (3.0)	0.0 (2.0)	0.166*
0 n (%)	33 (46.5)	20 (58.8)	
1 n (%)	12 (16.9)	5 (14.7)	
2 n (%)	4 (5.6)	2 (5.9)	
3 n (%)	9 (12.7)	4 (11.8)	
4 n (%)	8 (11.3)	3 (8.8)	
5 n (%)	5 (7.0)	0 (0.0)	
FSDS-R, median (IQR)	11.2 (25.6)	3.2 (9.6)	0.001*
HADS			
HADS-Anxiety, median (IQR)	10.0 (6.0)	5.0 (6.0)	<0.001*
HADS-Depression, median (IQR)	7.0 (7.0)	2.0 (3.0)	<0.001*
RU-SATED, median (IQR)	18.0 (12.0)	23.5 (9.0)	0.005*

Bold for statistically significant results.

FSFI-6 – Female Sexual Function Index-6; FSDS-R – Female Sexual Distress Scale-Revised; HADS – Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; RU-SATED – Regularity, Satisfaction, Alertness, Timing, Efficiency and Duration Sleep Health Scale; IQR – Interquartile range; * Mann-Whitney U test

Table 4 Comparison of migraine patients according to the presence of Female Sexual Dysfunction and Sexual Distress.

	FSD+ (n = 36)	FSD- (n = 35)	<i>p</i> value	Distress + (n = 36)	Distress - (n = 35)	<i>p</i> value
Age, in years, median (IQR) mean (SD)	40.5 (11.0)	40.0 (12.0)	0.778*	39.58 (7.64)	38.34 (6.88)	0.475****
Education, n (%)	6 (16.7)	5 (14.3)	0.680**	8 (22.2)	3 (8.6)	0.062**
(Basic/Secondary/Higher)	11 (30.6)	8 (22.9)		12 (33.3)	7 (20.0)	
	19 (52.8)	22 (62.9)		16 (44.4)	25 (71.4)	
Employment Status, n (%)	30 (83.3)	30 (85.7)	0.593***	30 (83.3)	30 (85.7)	0.593***
(Employee/Self-employed/Unemployed/Student)	3 (8.3)	1 (2.9)		1 (2.8)	3 (8.6)	
	1 (2.8)	3 (8.6)		3 (8.3)	1 (2.9)	
	2 (5.6)	1 (2.9)		2 (5.6)	1 (2.9)	
Marital Satus, n (%)	27 (75.0)	29 (82.9)	0.141***	29 (80.6)	27 (77.1)	0.881***
Married or stable/Divorced/Single	0 (0.0)	2 (5.7)		1 (2.8)	1 (2.9)	
	9 (25.0)	4 (11.4)		6 (16.7)	7 (20.0)	
Number of children, n (%)	15 (41.7)	12 (34.3)	0.869***	11 (30.6)	16 (45.7)	0.127***
(Zero/One/Two/Three children)	6 (16.7)	8 (22.9)		10 (27.8)	4 (11.4)	
	14 (38.9)	14 (40.0)		15 (41.7)	13 (37.1)	
	1 (2.8)	1 (2.9)		0 (0.0)	2 (5.7)	
Pre-obesity, n (%)	4 (11.1)	3 (8.6)	1.000***	5 (13.9)	2 (5.7)	0.429***
Obesity, n (%)	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Arterial hypertension, n (%)	1 (2.8)	3 (8.6)	0.357***	2 (5.6)	2 (5.7)	1.000***
Tabagism, n (%)	4 (11.1)	4 (11.4)	1.000***	5 (13.9)	3 (8.6)	0.710***
Dyslipidemia, n (%)	4 (11.1)	2 (5.7)	0.674***	2 (5.6)	4 (11.4)	0.429***
Sedentarism, n (%)	2 (5.6)	4 (11.4)	0.429***	2 (5.6)	4 (11.4)	0.429***
Insomnia n (%)	14 (38.9)	11 (31.4)	0.511**	18 (50.0)	7 (20.0)	0.008**
Sleepwalking, n (%)	2 (5.6)	0 (0.0)	0.493***	2 (5.6)	0 (0.0)	0.493***
Restless Legs Syndrome, n (%)	1 (2.8)	2 (5.7)	0.614***	2 (5.6)	1 (2.9)	1.000***
Sleep Bruxism, n (%)	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Sleep Apnoea, n (%)	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Hypersomnia, n (%)	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***	1 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1.000***
Combined oral contraceptive pill, n (%)	8 (22.2)	9 (25.7)	0.730**	8 (22.2)	9 (25.7)	0.730**
No contraceptive methods, n (%)	4 (11.1)	7 (20.0)	0.301**	5 (13.9)	6 (17.1)	0.705**
Migraine onset, n (%)	6 (16.7)	7 (20.0)	0.807**	3 (8.3)	10 (28.6)	0.014**
(childhood/adolescence/adulthood)	15 (41.7)	16 (45.7)		14 (38.9)	17 (48.6)	
	15 (41.7)	12 (34.3)		19 (52.8)	8 (22.9)	
Frequency/month, n (%)	6 (16.7)	8 (22.9)	0.240**	8 (22.2)	6 (17.1)	0.823**
(< 4/ 4-9/ 10-15/ > 15days)	12 (33.3)	15 (42.9)		13 (36.1)	14 (40.4)	
	10 (27.8)	10 (28.6)		9 (25.0)	11 (31.4)	
	8 (22.2)	2 (5.7)		6 (16.7)	4 (11.4)	
Aura (present/absent), n (%)	23 (74.2)	23 (71.9)	0.836**	22 (68.8)	24 (77.4)	0.438**
	8 (25.8)	9 (28.1)		10 (31.3)	7 (22.6)	
CGRP monoclonal antibodies, n (%)	15 (41.7)	13 (37.1)	0.697**	13 (36.1)	15 (42.9)	0.561**
Oral preventive medication, n (%)	18 (50.0)	7 (20.0)	0.008**	18 (50.0)	7 (20.0)	0.008**
Botulinum toxin, n (%)	7 (19.4)	13 (37.1)	0.097**	8 (22.2)	12 (34.3)	0.259**
Occipital nerve block, n (%)	2 (5.6)	4 (11.4)	0.429***	2 (5.6)	4 (11.4)	0.429***
No chronic treatment, n (%)	5 (13.9)	4 (11.4)	1.000***	5 (13.9)	4 (11.4)	1.000***
SOS medication, n (%)	10 (27.8)	12 (34.3)	0.862***	12 (33.3)	10 (28.6)	0.945***
(< 4/ 4-9/ 10-15/ > 15days)	19 (52.8)	16 (45.7)		17 (47.2)	18 (51.4)	
	4 (11.1)	5 (14.3)		5 (13.9)	4 (11.4)	
	3 (8.3)	2 (5.7)		2 (5.6)	3 (8.6)	
MIDAS, median (IQR)	30.5 (34.3)	21.0 (41.0)	0.381*	26.0 (40.0)	31.0 (42.5)	0.830*
BPI: Worst pain, median (IQR)	8.0 (3.0)	7.0 (2.0)	0.245*	7.5 (2.0)	7.0 (3.0)	0.726*
BPI: Least pain, median (IQR)	4.0 (4.0)	3.0 (3.0)	0.630*	3.5 (3.0)	3.0 (4.0)	0.732*
BPI: Pain on average, median (IQR)	6.0 (3.0)	5.0 (3.0)	0.944*	5.0 (3.0)	6.0 (4.0)	0.111*
BPI: Current pain, median (IQR)	2.5 (5.0)	0.0 (3.0)	0.046*	2.0 (5.0)	2.0 (5.0)	0.562*
HADS-Anxiety, median (IQR)	12.0 (6.0)	9.0 (5.0)	0.023*	12.0 (5.0)	8.0 (5.0)	0.002*
HADS-Depression, mean (SD) median (IQR)	8.56 (4.48)	4.86 (3.40)	<0.001****	10.0 (5.0)	4.0 (6.0)	<0.001*
RU-SATED, median (IQR) mean (SD)	16.0 (13.0)	20.0 (8.0)	0.271*	15.47 (7.09)	20.46 (5.64)	0.002****

Bold for statistically significant results.

FSD – Female Sexual Dysfunction; MIDAS – Migraine Disability Assessment Score; BPI – Brief Pain Inventory; HADS – Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; RU-SATED – Regularity, Satisfaction, Alerttness, Timing, Efficiency and Duration Sleep Health Scale; IQR – Interquartile range; SD – Standard deviation; * Mann-Whitney U test; ** Chi-squared test; *** Fisher's exact test; **** Independent Samples T-test

Table 5 Correlation between FSFI-6 domain scores and age, FSDS-R, MIDAS, BPI, HADS-A, HADS-D and RU-SATED scores in patients with migraine.

	Desire ρ, p	Arousal ρ, p	Lubrication ρ, p	Orgasm ρ, p	Satisfaction ρ, p	Pain ρ, p
Age	-0.101, 0.402	-0.120, 0.320	-0.070, 0.560	0.193, 0.107	-0.141, 0.241	-0.153, 0.204
FSDS-R	-0.429, <0.001	-0.457, <0.001	-0.399, <0.001	-0.418, <0.001	-0.481, <0.001	0.435, <0.001
MIDAS Score	-0.037, 0.790	0.049, 0.727	-0.021, 0.879	0.027, 0.849	-0.040, 0.775	0.312, 0.023
BPI: Worst pain	-0.040, 0.742	0.022, 0.854	-0.094, 0.433	0.044, 0.714	0.077, 0.525	0.121, 0.314
BPI: Least pain	-0.176, 0.143	-0.086, 0.478	-0.197, 0.099	0.031, 0.797	0.040, 0.743	0.054, 0.653
BPI: Average pain	-0.018, 0.883	0.090, 0.453	0.063, 0.603	0.118, 0.326	0.179, 0.136	-0.054, 0.655
BPI: Current pain	-0.240, 0.043	-0.150, 0.213	-0.138, 0.252	-0.079, 0.513	-0.185, 0.122	0.076, 0.528
HADS-Anxiety	-0.322, 0.006	-0.350, 0.003	-0.220, 0.066	-0.233, 0.051	-0.290, 0.014	0.220, 0.066
HADS-Depression	-0.509, <0.001	-0.512, <0.001	-0.321, 0.006	-0.382, 0.001	-0.455, <0.001	0.228, 0.056
RU-SATED	0.154, 0.200	0.193, 0.108	0.127, 0.293	0.208, 0.081	0.179, 0.136	-0.259, 0.029

Bold for statistically significant results.

FSFI-6 – Female Sexual Function Index-6; FSDS-R – Female Sexual Distress Scale-Revised; HADS – Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; RU-SATED – Regularity, Satisfaction, Alertness, Timing, Efficiency and Duration Sleep Health Scale

Apêndices

- A. Reporting guidelines (STROBE) para estudos observacionais transversais
- B. Normas de formatação da revista: *Journal of Neurology*
- C. Parecer da Comissão de Ética e do Encarregado da Proteção de Dados do Centro Hospitalar
Universitário de São João

Apêndice A

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cross-sectional studies*

	Item No	Recommendation	Page No
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Page 9: “Retrospective, cross-sectional study”
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page 9: “Female sexual dysfunction (FSD) (...) poor sleep quality.”
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 10: “Sexual health is (...) requires further investigation.”
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Pages 10-11: “Thus, this work aimed (...) in migraine patients.”
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 11: “We performed a single-centre, retrospective cross-sectional study”
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Pages 11-12: “We performed a single-centre (...) sent by text message.”
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	Page 11: “The participants were (...) were also excluded.”
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Pages 11-12: “The participants were (...) 30 (good sleep health).”
Data sources/measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Pages 11-12: “Participants who meet (...) 30 (good sleep health).”
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page 11: “with a diagnosis of (...) International Classification of Headache Disorders”
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Page 13: “The study gathered a total of 105 participants.”
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 13: “Quantitative variables were (...) if otherwise.”
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page 13: “Statistical analysis was performed (...) was defined as statistically significant.”
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	

		(d) If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	Not applicable.
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	We did not perform any sensitivity analyses.
Results			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	Page 13: “Patient and control recruitment (...) total of 105 participants.”
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Page 27: Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Pages 13-14: “The sociodemographic characteristics (...) 15 days per month.” Page 28: Table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Page 29: Table 2
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Pages 14-16: “The median score of the MIDAS Scale (...) correlated to pain ($\rho=-0.259$, $p=0.029$).” Page 30: Table 3 Page 31: Table 4 Page 32: Table 5
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Pages 14-16: “Migraine characteristics are displayed (...) correlated to pain ($\rho=-0.259$, $p=0.029$).”
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page 28: Table 1 Subanalysis of the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Pages 16-17: “Migraine patients display (...) of this relationship is necessary. Page 21: “This study highlights (...) sexual domains of FSD.”

Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Pages 20-21: “This study had also some limitations (...) and sleep health over time.”
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Pages 17-20: “The prevalence of sexual dysfunction (...) premenopausal, perimenopausal and postmenopausal patients.”
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 20: “including a sample from a single tertiary hospital (...) variables from the ecological theory of sexual satisfaction.”
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	Page 22: “The authors did not receive support from any organisation for the submitted work.”

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

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Submission guidelines

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Instructions for Authors

Types of manuscripts and formal requirements

All articles must be written in English.

The following article will be considered for publication and can be submitted via Editorial Manager: Original Communication, Reviews, Short Commentary, Letters to the Editors and Pioneers in Neurology.

Original Communication must not exceed 9,000 words (excluding abstract and keywords, figures, tables, captions and references). Exceptions can be made only with the agreement of the responsible Chief Editor.

Review Articles must not exceed 12,000 words (excluding abstract and keywords, figures, tables, captions and references). Exceptions can be made only with the agreement of the responsible Editor.

Short Commentaries highlight new developments in clinical neuroscience and should not contain more than 6,000 words. Preliminary results of highly innovative studies may be submitted as Short Commentaries.

Letters to the Editors will be considered describing small studies or case reports of special significance and should not contain more than 2,500 words and 15 references. Abstract and key words are not required.

Pioneers in Neurology articles have a limit of 1,000 words, 10 references, and 1 portrait figure. These articles are not obituaries; rather, they focus on the scientific contributions of past pioneers to the neurological sciences, comprising key biographical information, but foremost, offering originality and a fresh perspective. Please consult previous issues for sample papers.

Neurological Update papers are invited reviews by experts that provide an update in their field of expertise. *Journal of Neurology* does not consider unsolicited submissions of Neurological Update papers.

Journal Club papers are invited to discuss relevant publications in the field of clinical neurology. *Journal of Neurology* does not consider unsolicited submissions of Journal Club papers.

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Editorial procedure

Single-blind peer review

This journal follows a single-blind reviewing procedure.

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Manuscript Submission

Manuscript Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

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Please follow the hyperlink “Submit manuscript” and upload all of your manuscript files following the instructions given on the screen.

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Title Page

Please make sure your title page contains the following information.

Title

The title should be concise and informative.

Author information

The name(s) of the author(s)

The affiliation(s) of the author(s), i.e. institution, (department), city, (state), country

A clear indication and an active e-mail address of the corresponding author

If available, the 16-digit [ORCID](#) of the author(s)

If address information is provided with the affiliation(s) it will also be published.

For authors that are (temporarily) unaffiliated we will only capture their city and country of residence, not their e-mail address unless specifically requested.

Large Language Models (LLMs), such as [ChatGPT](#), do not currently satisfy our [authorship criteria](#). Notably an attribution of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to LLMs. Use of an LLM should be properly documented in the Methods section (and if a Methods section is not available, in a suitable alternative part) of the manuscript.

Abstract

Please provide an abstract of 150 to 250 words. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references.

For life science journals only (when applicable)

Trial registration number and date of registration for prospectively registered trials

Trial registration number and date of registration, followed by “retrospectively registered”, for retrospectively registered trials

Keywords

Please provide 4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Statements and Declarations

The following statements should be included under the heading "Statements and Declarations" for inclusion in the published paper. Please note that submissions that do not include relevant declarations will be returned as incomplete.

Competing Interests: Authors are required to disclose financial or non-financial interests that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication. Please refer to “Competing Interests and Funding” below for more information on how to complete this section.

Please see the relevant sections in the submission guidelines for further information as well as various examples of wording. Please revise/customize the sample statements according to your own needs.

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Text

Text Formatting

Manuscripts should be submitted in Word.

Use a normal, plain font (e.g., 10-point Times Roman) for text.

Use italics for emphasis.

Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.

Do not use field functions.

Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.

Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.

Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.

Save your file in docx format (Word 2007 or higher) or doc format (older Word versions).

Manuscripts with mathematical content can also be submitted in LaTeX. We recommend using [Springer Nature's LaTeX template](#).

Headings

Please use no more than three levels of displayed headings.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter.

Footnotes

Footnotes can be used to give additional information, which may include the citation of a reference included in the reference list. They should not consist solely of a reference citation, and they should never include the bibliographic details of a reference. They should also not contain any figures or tables.

Footnotes to the text are numbered consecutively; those to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data). Footnotes to the title or the authors of the article are not given reference symbols.

Always use footnotes instead of endnotes.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments of people, grants, funds, etc. should be placed in a separate section on the title page. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

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Scientific style

Generic names of drugs and pesticides are preferred; if trade names are used, the generic name should be given at first mention.

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References

Citation

Reference citations in the text should be identified by numbers in square brackets. Some examples:

1. Negotiation research spans many disciplines [3].
2. This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman [5].
3. This effect has been widely studied [1–3, 7].

Reference list

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text.

The entries in the list should be numbered consecutively.

If available, please always include DOIs as full DOI links in your reference list (e.g. “<https://doi.org/abc>”).

Journal article

Gamelin FX, Baquet G, Berthoin S, Thevenet D, Nourry C, Nottin S, Bosquet L (2009) Effect of high intensity intermittent training on heart rate variability in prepubescent children. *Eur J Appl Physiol* 105:731–738. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00421-008-0955-8>

Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “et al” in long author lists will also be accepted:

Smith J, Jones M Jr, Houghton L et al (1999) Future of health insurance. *N Engl J Med* 341:325–329

Article by DOI

Slifka MK, Whitton JL (2000) Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *J Mol Med*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s001090000086>

Book

South J, Blass B (2001) *The future of modern genomics*. Blackwell, London

Book chapter

Brown B, Aaron M (2001) The politics of nature. In: Smith J (ed) *The rise of modern genomics*, 3rd edn. Wiley, New York, pp 230–257

Online document

Cartwright J (2007) Big stars have weather too. IOP Publishing PhysicsWeb. <http://physicsweb.org/articles/news/11/6/16/1>. Accessed 26 June 2007

Dissertation

Trent JW (1975) *Experimental acute renal failure*. Dissertation, University of California

Always use the standard abbreviation of a journal’s name according to the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations, see

[ISSN.org LTWA](https://www.issn.org/LTWA)

If you are unsure, please use the full journal title.

Authors preparing their manuscript in LaTeX can use the bibliography style file sn-basic.bst which is included in the [Springer Nature Article Template](#).

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Tables

All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.

Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

For each table, please supply a table caption (title) explaining the components of the table.

Identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption.

Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.

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Artwork and Illustrations Guidelines

Electronic Figure Submission

Supply all figures electronically.

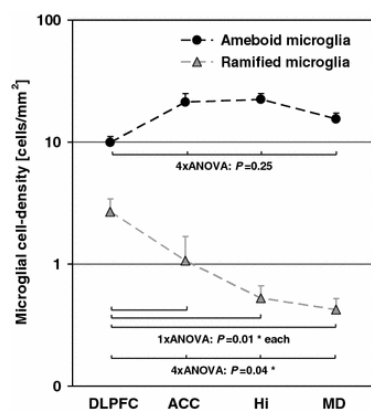
Indicate what graphics program was used to create the artwork.

For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; for halftones, please use TIFF format. MSOffice files are also acceptable.

Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.

Name your figure files with "Fig" and the figure number, e.g., Fig1.eps.

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Definition: Black and white graphic with no shading.

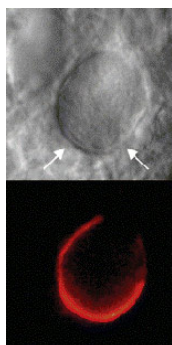
Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible at final size.

All lines should be at least 0.1 mm (0.3 pt) wide.

Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.

Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.

Halftone Art

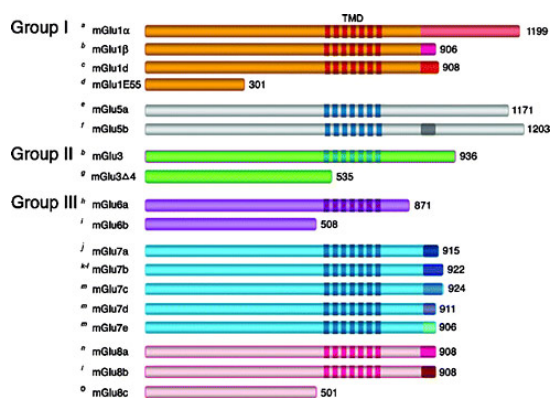


Definition: Photographs, drawings, or paintings with fine shading, etc.

If any magnification is used in the photographs, indicate this by using scale bars within the figures themselves.

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- The data reproduced from Article X utilized human tissue that was procured via our Biobank AB, which provides de-identified samples. This study was reviewed and deemed exempt by our XYZ Institutional Review Board. The BioBank protocols are in accordance with the ethical standards of our institution and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

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Informed consent

All individuals have individual rights that are not to be infringed. Individual participants in studies have, for example, the right to decide what happens to the (identifiable) personal data gathered, to what they have said during a study or an interview, as well as to any photograph that was taken. This is especially true concerning images of vulnerable people (e.g. minors, patients, refugees, etc) or the use of images in sensitive contexts. In many instances authors will need to secure written consent before including images.

Identifying details (names, dates of birth, identity numbers, biometrical characteristics (such as facial features, fingerprint, writing style, voice pattern, DNA or other distinguishing characteristic) and other information) of the participants that were studied should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and genetic profiles unless the information is essential for scholarly purposes and the participant (or parent/guardian if the participant is a minor or incapable or legal representative) gave written informed consent for publication. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve in some cases. Detailed descriptions of individual participants, whether of their whole bodies or of body sections, may lead to disclosure of their identity. Under certain circumstances consent is not required as long as information is anonymized and the submission does not include images that may identify the person.

Informed consent for publication should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of participants is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic profiles, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort meaning.

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- Reuse of images: If images are being reused from prior publications, the Publisher will assume that the prior publication obtained the relevant information regarding consent. Authors should provide the appropriate attribution for republished images.

Consent and already available data and/or biologic material

Regardless of whether material is collected from living or dead patients, they (family or guardian if the deceased has not made a pre-mortem decision) must have given prior written consent. The aspect of confidentiality as well as any wishes from the deceased should be respected.

Data protection, confidentiality and privacy

When biological material is donated for or data is generated as part of a research project authors should ensure, as part of the informed consent procedure, that the participants are made aware what kind of (personal) data will be processed, how it will be used and for what purpose. In case of data acquired via a biobank/biorepository, it is possible they apply a broad consent which allows research participants to consent to a broad range of uses of their data and samples which is regarded by research ethics committees as specific enough to be considered “informed”. However, authors should always check the specific biobank/biorepository policies or any other type of data provider policies (in case of non-bio research) to be sure that this is the case.

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Consent to Publish

Individuals may consent to participate in a study, but object to having their data published in a journal article. Authors should make sure to also seek consent from individuals to publish their data prior to submitting their paper to a journal. This is in particular applicable to case studies. A consent to publish form can be found

[here. \(Download docx, 36 kB\)](#)

Summary of requirements

The above should be summarized in a statement and placed in a 'Declarations' section before the reference list under a heading of 'Consent to participate' and/or 'Consent to publish'. Other declarations include Funding, Competing interests, Ethics approval, Consent, Data and/or Code availability and Authors' contribution statements.

Please see the various examples of wording below and revise/customize the sample statements according to your own needs.

Sample statements for **"Consent to participate"**:

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

Informed consent was obtained from legal guardians.

Written informed consent was obtained from the parents.

Verbal informed consent was obtained prior to the interview.

Sample statements for **"Consent to publish"**:

The authors affirm that human research participants provided informed consent for publication of the images in Figure(s) 1a, 1b and 1c.

The participant has consented to the submission of the case report to the journal.

Patients signed informed consent regarding publishing their data and photographs.

Sample statements if identifying information about participants is available in the article:

Additional informed consent was obtained from all individual participants for whom identifying information is included in this article.

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Images will be removed from publication if authors have not obtained informed consent or the paper may be removed and replaced with a notice explaining the reason for removal.

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Authorship clarified

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All authors whose names appear on the submission

- 1) made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work;
- 2) drafted the work or revised it critically for important intellectual content;
- 3) approved the version to be published; and
- 4) agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

* Based on/adapted from:

[ICMJE, Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors,](#)

[Transparency in authors' contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication, McNutt at all, PNAS February 27, 2018](#)

Disclosures and declarations

All authors are requested to include information regarding sources of funding, financial or non-financial interests, study-specific approval by the appropriate ethics committee for research involving humans and/or animals, informed consent if the research involved human participants, and a statement on welfare of animals if the research involved animals (as appropriate).

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providing transparency on re-use of material and mention any unpublished material (for example manuscripts in press) included in the manuscript in a cover letter to the Editor;

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All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed by [full name], [full name] and [full name]. The first draft of the manuscript was written by [full name] and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

[Example: CRediT taxonomy:](#)

• Conceptualization: [full name], ...; Methodology: [full name], ...; Formal analysis and investigation: [full name], ...; Writing – original draft preparation: [full name, ...]; Writing – review and editing: [full name], ...; Funding acquisition: [full name], ...; Resources: [full name], ...; Supervision: [full name],....

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[A Graduate Student's Guide to Determining Authorship Credit and Authorship Order, APA Science Student Council 2006](#)

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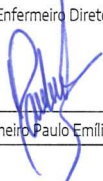
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DELIBERAÇÃO DO CONSELHO DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO

Após apreciação e pareceres favoráveis da Comissão de Ética e do Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar, considerando que se encontram reunidos os requisitos e demais trâmites previstos no circuito para submissão de projetos de investigação no Centro Hospitalar Universitário de S. João e em conformidade com as disposições legais em vigor, o Conselho de Administração – ao abrigo das competências previstas no Artigo 71.º dos Estatutos dos hospitais, centros hospitalares, institutos portugueses de oncologia e unidades locais de saúde, aprovados pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 52/2022, de 4 de agosto – delibera:

1. Aprovar a realização do projeto de investigação:
 - “Prevalência e Fatores Preditivos de Disfunção Sexual Feminina e de Distress Sexual em Mulheres com Enxaqueca”.
 - Serviço(s) onde decorrerá o projeto de investigação: Neurologia.
 - Investigador(a) principal: Andreia Gomes da Costa
2. Remeta-se à Comissão de Ética para os procedimentos adequados e demais trâmites convenientes.

CONSELHO DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO DO CENTRO HOSPITALAR UNIVERSITÁRIO DE S. JOÃO, EPE • REUNIÃO DE 2 DE NOVEMBRO DE 2023			
Presidente do Conselho de Administração			
 Prof.ª Doutora Maria João Baptista			
Diretor Clínico	Enfermeiro Diretor	Vogal Executiva	Vogal Executiva
--- AUSENTE ---			
Prof.º Doutor Roberto Roncon	Enfermeiro Paulo Emílio Mota	Dra. Sofia Leal	Dra. Fernanda Oliveira

> Comissão de Ética
 > Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar
 > Direção Clínica

☐ CE 262/2023

30 de Outubro de 2023

A Diretora do Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar

(Prof.ª Doutora Ana Azevedo)



SÃO JOÃO

n.º 262 / 2023

DIRECÇÃO CLÍNICA

31 OUT 2023

PEDIDO DE AUTORIZAÇÃO

Realização de Investigação

Exmo. Senhor Presidente do Conselho de Administração
do Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João

Nome do Investigador Principal:

Andreia Gomes da Costa

Título da Investigação:

Prevalência e Fatores Preditivos de Disfunção Sexual Feminina e de Distress Sexual em Mulheres com Enxaqueca

Pretendo realizar no(s) Serviço(s) de:

Neurologia

a investigação em epígrafe, solicito a V. Exa., na qualidade de Investigador/Promotor, autorização para a sua efetivação.

Para o efeito, anexo toda a documentação referida no dossier da Comissão de Ética do Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João/Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto respeitante à investigação, à qual enderecei pedido de apreciação e parecer.

Com os melhores cumprimentos.

O Investigador/Promotor

Porto, 10 de Julho de 2023 .

Andreia Filipe Gomes da Costa

assinatura



SÃO JOÃO

Encarregado
de Protecção de Dados
Data Protection Officer

Entrada

18/09/2023

«Centro Hospitalar São João»
Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar

23/10/2023

Título do Projeto: Prevalência e Fatores Preditivos de Disfunção Sexual Feminina e Distress Sexual em mulheres com Enxaqueca

Nome da Investigadora Principal: Dra. Andreia Gomes da Costa. Serão co-investigadoras a Matilde Meireles Bertão e a Dra. Bárbara Martins.

Onde decorre o Estudo: No Serviço de Neurologia do CHUSJ. Apresentou declaração da Prof.^a Doutora Elsa Azevedo.

Objetivos do Estudo:

Avaliar se a enxaqueca se associa a pior saúde sexual (disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual) em mulheres portuguesas pré-menopáusicas em comparação com um grupo de mulheres sem esta patologia; Comparar a frequência de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres com enxaqueca episódica e enxaqueca crónica; Determinar em que domínio de saúde sexual é que a enxaqueca tem maior impacto; Avaliar se doentes com enxaqueca mais incapacitante são os que apresentam mais disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual; Identificar possíveis preditores de risco de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres pré-menopáusicas: características e incapacidade associada à cefaleia, número de analgésicos agudos e de fármacos preventivos, presença de comorbilidade psiquiátrica, como ansiedade/depressão, e alterações do sono.

Estudo realizado no âmbito do Mestrado Integrado em Medicina da FMUP de Matilde Meireles Bertão, sob orientação da Dra. Andreia Gomes da Costa e co-orientação da Dra. Bárbara Martins.

Conceção e Pertinência do estudo:

Trata-se de um estudo observacional e transversal, mas com intervenção já que é dependente da aplicação de vários questionários.

O objetivo principal é avaliar se a enxaqueca se associa a pior saúde sexual (disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual) em mulheres portuguesas pré-menopáusicas em comparação com um grupo de mulheres pré-menopáusicas sem esta patologia.

Maior compreensão relativamente à relação entre a enxaqueca e a saúde sexual da mulher, sobretudo o sentimento de distress associado à mesma, parâmetro negligenciado nos estudos realizados até à data, focados principalmente na função orgânica e desvalorizando a experiência emocional e subjetiva da vida sexual feminina. É fundamental que os clínicos disponham de ferramentas validadas e standardizadas, que providenciem informação na área da medicina sexual e reprodutiva, para uma abordagem integrativa e multidisciplinar que envolva os vários domínios de saúde necessários ao bem-estar da população.

Serão recolhidos os seguintes dados: Idade, grau de escolaridade, situação profissional, estado civil, peso, altura, índice de massa corporal, número de filhos. Enxaqueca - data de início da doença e diagnóstico, frequência mensal, presença de aura, medicação sintomática e preventiva, intensidade, incapacidade associada, número de dias por mês com necessidade de medicação de resgate e número de fármacos preventivos atuais e prévios. Fatores de risco cardiovasculares, diagnóstico de patologia depressiva e/ou ansiosa e perturbações do sono. Método contraceutivo.

Serão recrutadas 100 participantes entre os 18 e 55 anos e sexualmente activas (50 com diagnóstico de enxaqueca, 50 sem enxaqueca), da Consulta de Neurologia-Cefaleias, Neurologia-Intervenção e Neurologia-Geral do CHUSJ. Estão definidos critérios de exclusão.

Serão aplicados 6 questionários autoadministrados. Todas as escalas possuem uma versão validada para a população portuguesa (Escala de Avaliação de Incapacidade da Enxaqueca - MIDAS – Migraine Disability Assessment Scale; Escala Visual Analógica - VAS – Visual Analogue Scale; Índice de Funcionamento Sexual Feminino – 6 FSFI-6 – Female Sexual Function Index; Escala de Distress Sexual Feminino - FSDS-R – Female Sexual Distress Scale-Revised; Escala de Ansiedade e Depressão Hospitalar - HADS – Hospital Depression and Anxiety Scale; Escala de Saúde do

Sono - SHS – Sleep Health Scale [adaptada e traduzida com base no questionário RU-SATED – Regularity, Satisfaction, Alertness, Timing, Efficiency and Duration Questionnaire for Sleep Health Measurement]).

As doentes com enxaqueca irão realizar os questionários MIDAS, VAS, FSFI-6, FSDS-R, HADS e SHS enquanto os controlos farão o preenchimento dos questionários FSFI-6, FSDS-R, HADS e SHS. Os questionários serão fornecidos por meio de um formulário online, enviado para as participantes do estudo através de uma mensagem para o telemóvel ou via correio eletrónico. Será também necessário acesso aos registos clínicos eletrónicos das doentes para complemento da informação clínica relevante relativa ao diagnóstico.

Benefício/risco: Sem riscos previstos.

Confidencialidade dos dados:

As doentes receberão um número exclusivo de identificação do estudo. Os dados serão extraídos eletronicamente para um banco de dados. Apenas os membros da equipa do estudo terão acesso aos dados. Os dados serão mantidos em anonimato e não serão utilizados para outro fim que não o do presente estudo.

Apresentou um pedido de reutilização de registos clínicos para Investigação e Desenvolvimento ao RAI, e uma 'avaliação sobre o impacto da proteção de dados' para o EPD. Sugere-se a substituição da data de nascimento por apenas ano de nascimento ou idade de forma a não fragilizar o processo de anonimização.

Respeito pela liberdade e autonomia do sujeito de ensaio:

Será fornecida informação às participantes e recolhido consentimento informado, através de um formulário online previamente ao início do questionário. Questiona-se esta metodologia para obtenção de consentimento informado, sugerindo-se que a obtenção seja feita previamente ao preenchimento do questionário, que pode ser online, mas num segundo momento. Questiona-se, ainda, a afirmação que diz: 'Ao assinalar que aceita participar neste estudo, autoriza o acesso à informação obtida neste estudo ou em futuras investigações'. Adicionalmente, o documento de informação ao participante deve explicitar que poderão existir questões de natureza sensível. O recrutamento não pode ser feito pela estudante do MIMED.

Curriculum da investigadora: Adequado à investigação.

Data previsível da conclusão do estudo: maio de 2024

Conclusão: Proponho um parecer favorável à realização do estudo após esclarecimento das questões em sublinhado.

Porto, 21 de julho de 2023

O Relator da CE, Prof. Doutor Paulo Chaves

07/07/2023

Todas as questões foram esclarecidas

Pedro Brito

Paulo Chaves



SÃO JOÃO

Questionário eletrónico

n.º 262 / 2023

SUBMISSÃO DE PROJETO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO PARA PARECER E AUTORIZAÇÃO

Preenchimento em formato digital obrigatório

Caro/a Investigador/a

Este questionário vai ser objeto de apreciação pela Comissão de Ética (CE), que emitirá o competente parecer; pelo Responsável de Acesso à Informação (RAI), que emitirá um despacho de autorização ou indeferimento, relativamente à reutilização da informação a que pretende ter acesso; pelo Encarregado de Proteção de Dados (EPD), que emitirá um parecer, mediante a 'avaliação do impacto sobre a proteção de dados' (que deve anexar a este pedido); pelo Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar; sendo enviado, num último momento, para decisão institucional do Conselho de Administração do CHUSJ. Os respetivos despachos de parecer e autorização serão exarados no final deste documento, e enviados posteriormente, de modo a poder iniciar, nesse momento, a investigação a que se propõe.

IDENTIFICAÇÃO DO ESTUDO

Título do projeto:

Prevalência e Fatores Preditivos de Disfunção Sexual Feminina e de Distress Sexual em Mulheres com Enxaqueca

Data prevista para início: 01 / 08 / 2023

Data prevista para o término: 31 / 05 / 2024

EQUIPA DE INVESTIGAÇÃO

1. Investigador principal

Nome: Andreia Gomes da Costa

Afiliação institucional: ☒ CHUSJ ☒ FMUP Outro: _____

Serviço/ Departamento: Serviço de Neurologia, CHUSJ | D. Neurociências Clínicas e Saúde Mental, FMUP

Grupo profissional: _____ Cédula Profissional n.º: 52914

Contacto telefónico: 917 935 410 Endereço eletrónico institucional: andreiafgcosta@gmail.com

Formação em Boas Práticas Clínicas (GCP): ☐ Não ☒ Sim

2. Co-investigadores

Nome: Matilde Meireles Bertão

Afiliação institucional: Departamento de Neurociências Clínicas e Saúde Mental, FMUP

Grupo profissional: _____ Cédula Profissional n.º: _____

Contacto telefónico: 934 268 855 Endereço eletrónico institucional: up201807441@g.uporto.pt

Nome: Bárbara Martins

Afiliação institucional: Serviço de Neurologia, CHUSJ | D. Neurociências Clínicas e Saúde Mental, FMUP

Grupo profissional: _____ Cédula Profissional n.º: _____

Contacto telefónico: 917 729 901 Endereço eletrónico institucional: barbarapmartins6@gmail.com

(acrescentar n.º de investigadores, se apropriado ao projeto de investigação)

3. Promotor (se aplicável): Não aplicável.

CARACTERIZAÇÃO DA INVESTIGAÇÃO

1. Metodologia da investigação

☐ Qualitativa ☒ Mista (qualitativa+quantitativa) ☐ Outra. Qual? _____

Se quantitativa:

☐ Experimental ☒ Observacional ☒ Sem intervenção ☐ Com intervenção

Se experimental ou observacional com intervenção, qual o tipo de intervenção?

☐ Algoritmo de decisão diagnóstica/terapêutica ☐ Comunicação
☐ Outra. Qual? _____

2. Aleatorização dos braços de intervenção: ☒ Não ☐ Sim

3. Se observacional, qual o desenho?

☐ Coorte prospetivo ☐ Coorte retrospectivo ☐ Caso-controlo
☒ Transversal ☐ Ecológico ☐ Outro. Qual? _____

REALIZAÇÃO DA INVESTIGAÇÃO

Local onde se realiza a investigação: ☒ CHUSJ ☐ FMUP ☐ Outro

Serviço/ Departamento: Serviço de Neurologia

Existem outros Centros onde se realizará a investigação? ☒ Não ☐ Sim. Quais? _____

ENTIDADE(S) QUE TUTELA(M) A INVESTIGAÇÃO

1. CHUSJ – Serviço: Neurologia

2. FMUP – Departamento: Departamento de Neurociências Clínicas e Saúde Mental

3. Outra instituição. Qual? _____

ORIENTADOR (se aplicável)

Nome: Andreia Costa

Afiação: CHUSJ | FMUP Endereço eletrónico institucional: andreiafgcosta@gmail.com

PROFISSIONAL DE LIGAÇÃO (se aplicável - ver anexo)

Nome: _____ Serviço: _____

ENQUADRAMENTO DA INVESTIGAÇÃO

Em trabalho académico? ☐ Não ☒ Sim Conferidor de grau? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Síntese dos objetivos:

Avaliar se a enxaqueca se associa a pior saúde sexual (disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual) em mulheres portuguesas pré-menopáusicas em comparação com um grupo de mulheres sem esta patologia;

Comparar a frequência de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres com enxaqueca episódica e enxaqueca crónica;

Determinar em que domínio de saúde sexual é que a enxaqueca tem maior impacto;

Avaliar se doentes com enxaqueca mais incapacitante são os que apresentam mais disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual;

Identificar possíveis preditores de risco de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres pré-menopáusicas: características e incapacidade associada à cefaleia, número de analgésicos agudos e de fármacos preventivos, presença de comorbilidade psiquiátrica, como ansiedade/depressão, e alterações do sono.

Fundamentação ética (incluir informação sumária sobre o estado da arte, ganhos em conhecimento/ inovação, ponderação geral sobre benefícios/risco):

Maior compreensão relativamente à relação entre a enxaqueca e a saúde sexual da mulher, sobretudo o sentimento de distress associado à mesma, parâmetro negligenciado nos estudos realizados até à data, focados principalmente na função orgânica e desvalorizando a experiência emocional e subjetiva da vida sexual feminina. É fundamental que os clínicos disponham de ferramentas validadas e estandardizadas, que providenciem informação na área da medicina sexual e reprodutiva, para uma abordagem integrativa e multidisciplinar que envolva os vários domínios de saúde necessários ao bem-estar da população.

PARTICIPANTES PREVISTOS PARA A INVESTIGAÇÃO

Estão definidos critérios de inclusão / de exclusão de doentes? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Onde e como serão recrutados os participantes no estudo?

Consulta de Neurologia-Cefaleias, Neurologia-Intervenção e Neurologia-Geral do CHUSJ, via e-mail e/ou telefone.

Qual é o tamanho amostral? 100 participantes (50 com diagnóstico de enxaqueca, 50 sem enxaqueca)

Está prevista a recolha de material biológico específico para a investigação?

☒ Não ☐ Sim. Identifique e justifique:

BENEFÍCIO/RISCO DECORRENTE DA PARTICIPAÇÃO

Descreva os benefícios previsíveis:

Maior conhecimento da relação entre a enxaqueca e a saúde sexual feminina, tanto para clínicos como doentes.

Descreva os riscos/incómodos previsíveis:

Não são previsíveis riscos decorrentes deste trabalho.

CONSENTIMENTO INFORMADO, ESCLARECIDO E LIVRE

Prevê a obtenção de consentimento informado? ☒ Sim ☐ Não

Se não, justifique: _____

Prevê informação escrita para os participantes? ☒ Sim. **Enviar modelo preenchido.**

☐ Não. Justifique: _____

O modelo para obtenção de consentimento é o modelo institucional do CHUSJ? ☒ Sim ☐ Não

PROTEÇÃO DE DADOS PESSOAIS

Necessita consultar registos clínicos? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Está previsto o tratamento de dados pessoais? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Se sim, de que forma é garantida a pseudonimização dos dados recolhidos? (codificação, uso de filtros, siglas...)

As doentes receberão um número exclusivo de identificação do estudo. Os dados serão extraídos eletronicamente para um banco de dados. Apenas os membros da equipa do estudo terão acesso aos dados. Os dados serão mantidos em anonimato e não serão utilizados para outro fim que não o do presente estudo.

Descreva o património informacional a que pretende ter acesso (v.g.: nome, idade, data nascimento, idade, morada, diagnóstico, história clínica, tratamento...):

Idade, grau de escolaridade, situação profissional, estado civil, peso, altura, índice de massa corporal, número de filhos. Enxaqueca - data de início da doença e diagnóstico, frequência mensal, presença de aura, medicação sintomática e preventiva, intensidade, incapacidade associada, número de dias por mês com necessidade de medicação de resgate e número de fármacos preventivos atuais e prévios. Fatores de risco cardiovasculares, diagnóstico de patologia depressiva e/ou ansiosa e perturbações do sono. Método contraceptivo.

Está prevista a criação de um Banco de Dados? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Está previsto o registo de som ou de imagem dos participantes? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

O estudo envolve investigação genética? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

PROPRIEDADE INTELECTUAL

De quem será a propriedade intelectual da investigação e seus resultados?

☒ Investigador

☐ Promotor

☒ Serviço/CHUSJ

☐ Todos

DIVULGAÇÃO DOS RESULTADOS

Está prevista a divulgação dos resultados da investigação? ☐ Não ☒ Sim

Se sim, estão definidos critérios de publicação? ☒ Não ☐ Sim. Quais? _____

CONTRAPARTIDAS PARA OS PARTICIPANTES

Estão previstas contrapartidas para os participantes? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

Pela participação? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

Pelas deslocações? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

Pelas perdas salariais? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

Por outras perdas e/ou danos? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

EXAMES COMPLEMENTARES DE DIAGNÓSTICO

Estão previstos exames complementares de diagnóstico, para além dos inerentes à rotina assistencial?

☒ Não ☐ Sim. Quais? _____

Por quem serão suportados estes custos?

PROTOCOLO FINANCEIRO

Existe protocolo financeiro com o CHUSJ? ☒ Não ☐ Sim

SEGURO

Este estudo prevê intervenção clínica que implique a existência de um seguro para os participantes?

☒ Não ☐ Sim (se sim, junte cópia da respetiva Apólice)

Data previsível para fim das credenciais de acesso: ____ / ____ / ____

DOCUMENTOS ANEXOS (em suporte digital)

- ☒ Pedido de autorização ao Presidente do Conselho de Administração do CHUSJ
- ☒ Protocolo do estudo
- ☐ Caderno de recolha de dados (CRF)
- ☒ Declaração Diretor(es) Serviço(s)
- ☐ Informação Orientador
- ☐ Profissional de ligação
- ☐ Informação aos participantes
- ☐ Modelo de consentimento a utilizar
- ☒ Instrumentos de avaliação (escalas, inquéritos) _____
- ☒ Curriculum/a vitae (investigador/es)
- ☐ Questionário para Encarregado de Proteção de Dados (EPD)
- ☐ Termo de Responsabilidade do Centro Académico Clínico (para investigadores da FMUP que não pertençam ao CHUSJ)
- ☐ Protocolo financeiro
- ☐ Outros: _____

TERMO DE RESPONSABILIDADE

Aceitação dos termos e condições de reutilização

Cumulativamente com as obrigações decorrentes da Lei n.º 26/2016, de 22 de agosto, maxime dos n.º 2 e 3 do artigo 21 e o n.º 1 e 2 do artigo 12, ao submeter o presente pedido, concordo e fico ainda juridicamente vinculado aos seguintes termos e condições:

- Comprometo-me a manter confidencial toda a informação à qual vou ter acesso;
- Após explicação do RAI do CHUSJ, embora a Lei 26/2016, de 22 de agosto, imponha como requisito a anonimização sem possibilidades de reversão, tal desiderato, é não só uma impossibilidade matemática já comprovada, como ainda resulta num prejuízo para a investigação, face à quantidade e à qualidade da informação a retirar à fonte, razão pela qual, concordando com o RAI, assumimos como compromisso a pseudonimização, o que impõe uma avaliação e gestão do risco, num quadro ético-jurídico que aceitamos e nos comprometemos a colaborar e respeitar;
- Não vou elaborar registos, suscetíveis de identificar ou tornar identificável a identidade das pessoas a quem os mesmos dizem respeito;
- Comprometo-me a consultar os processos clínicos nos termos e locais que me forem indicados para o efeito;
- Tomei conhecimento, que a violação de qualquer dos compromissos aqui assumidos, poderá resultar no apuramento de responsabilidades disciplinares, civis e penais, e ainda, à impossibilidade futura de aceder a informação de saúde para fins de investigação.
- Independentemente de requerer a Certidão de Reutilização, DATA REUse Certificate for Research (DARE), comprometo-me a citar as fontes, sempre que publicitar, no todo ou em parte, resultados da presente investigação.

COMPROMISSO DE HONRA E DECLARAÇÃO DE INTERESSES

Eu, Andreia Gomes da Costa,

abaixo assinado, na qualidade de Investigador Principal, declaro por minha honra que as informações prestadas neste questionário são verdadeiras. Mais declaro que, durante o estudo, serão respeitadas as recomendações constantes na Declaração de Helsínquia (1960, e sucessivas emendas), da Organização Mundial de Saúde, da Convenção de Oviedo e das 'Boas Práticas Clínicas' (GCP/ICH) no que se refere à experimentação que envolve seres humanos. Aceito, também, a recomendação da CE de que o recrutamento para este estudo se fará junto de doentes que não tenham participado em outro estudo, nos últimos três meses. Comprometo-me a entregar à CE o relatório final da investigação, assim que concluído.

Data: 10 / 07 / 2023

Andreia Filipe Gomes da Costa

assinatura

COMISSÃO DE ÉTICA CHUSJ/FMUP

.Centro Hospitalar **São João**.

Parecer da CE, emitido na reunião plenária de 21 / 07 / 2023

CONSIDERADOS QUE FORAM COMO SATISFATÓRIOS OS ESCLARECIMENTOS PRESTADOS PELO(A) INVESTIGADOR(A), A CES APROVA POR UNANIMIDADE O PARECER DO RELATOR, PELO QUE NADA TEM A OPOR À REALIZAÇÃO DESTE PROJETO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO.

Aguarda Melancincento

[Assinatura]

[Assinatura] 07/07/2023

RAI 23012980

RAI - Responsável pelo Acesso à Informação no Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João (Art. 9º, Lei 26/2016 de 22 de Agosto)



SÃO JOÃO
HOSPITAL

Gabinete
de Apoio ao RAI
Recebido em
08/08/2023
A funcionária

Tae



SÃO JOÃO

AUTORIZADO
Pelo Responsável pelo Acesso
à Informação no Centro
Hospitalar de São João
(Art. 9º, Lei 26/2016, de 22/8)

14.08.2023

CENTRO DE EPIDEMIOLOGIA HOSPITALAR

Título do Projeto	Prevalência e Fatores Preditivos de Disfunção Sexual Feminina e de Distress Sexual em Mulheres com Enxaqueca		
Responsável pelo tratamento	Andreia Filipa Gomes da Costa		
Instituição	Centro Hospitalar Universitário São João (CHUSJ) Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto (FMUP)		
Investigador	☒ Interno	☐ Externo	
Contacto telefónico	917935410	Endereço Electrónico	u011357@chsj.min-saude.pt
Profissional de Ligação	Não aplicável		
Amostra	100 participantes (50 com diagnóstico de enxaqueca, 50 sem enxaqueca)		
Análise de Risco	Tolerável	☒ Baixo	☐ Elevado ☐ Muito Elevado

Parecer do EPD:

Data: 19/10/2023

Finalidade: avaliar se a enxaqueca se associa a pior saúde sexual (disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual) em mulheres portuguesas pré-menopáusicas em comparação com um grupo de mulheres pré-menopáusicas sem esta patologia; Comparar a frequência de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres com enxaqueca episódica e enxaqueca crónica; Determinar em que domínio de saúde sexual é que a enxaqueca tem maior impacto; Avaliar se doentes com enxaqueca mais incapacitante são os que apresentam mais disfunção sexual e/ou distress sexual; Identificar possíveis preditores de risco de disfunção sexual e distress sexual em mulheres pré-menopáusicas: características e incapacidade associada à cefaleia, número de analgésicos agudos e de fármacos preventivos, presença de comorbilidade psiquiátrica, como ansiedade/depressão, e alterações do sono.

Licitude: fundamento previsto no artigo 6(1)(a) e 9(2)(a) do RGPD

Categorias de dados pessoais: variáveis identificadas com detalhe na AIPD, datada de 18/09/2023, ponto 13 e protocolo de investigação, tendo presente o princípio da minimização dos dados.

Conservação: os dados serão alvo de **pseudonimização**, armazenados em local seguro, em área restrita com acesso limitado ao Investigador Principal, com acesso a ficheiros protegido por palavra-passe, efetuando-se a conservação até a conclusão da investigação, que se estima ser até 30 de junho de 2024. Os dados recolhidos serão destruídos após a finalização do estudo.

Comunicação de Dados: não há partilha de dados pessoais.

Face ao exposto, e observadas as recomendações, entende-se que a presente AIPD apresenta os elementos necessários para assegurar que o tratamento é realizado em conformidade com o RGPD.

Recomendações:

- Sempre que o consentimento do titular for o fundamento de legitimidade adequado para o tratamento de dados, dever-se-á
- assegurar que o mesmo é válido nas condições legalmente exigíveis: **uma manifestação de vontade livre, específica, informada e inequívoca**.
 - No sentido de assegurar o correto recrutamento para o presente estudo o Investigador Principal CHUSJ deve articular diretamente com os eventuais participantes (utentes CHUSJ) e solicitar previamente o seu consentimento para espoletar o envio / divulgação do link do questionário, bem como deve garantir as medidas técnicas e organizativas adequadas para a respetiva divulgação através dos meios / ferramentas CHUSJ disponíveis para esse efeito;
 - Garantir medidas de segurança adicionais (ex. transformar os dados com recursos a técnicas de generalização, perturbação e/ou como último recurso, a supressão de dados) para os dados que, ainda que pseudonimizados, contém elementos informativos que no seu conjunto possibilitam a re-identificação dos participantes, tendo presente a amostra em estudo (utentes CHUSJ), em particular na fase de disseminação ou publicação dos resultados (incluindo repositórios científicos).

4. Garantir medidas de segurança adicionais para o envio da informação por correio eletrónico, nomeadamente através de medidas de encriptação / codificação dos dados a tratar;
5. Garantir medidas de segurança adicionais no transporte dos dados com recurso a dispositivos electrónicos de armazenamento (Laptop), nomeadamente através de medidas de cifragem e autenticação;
6. Em caso de necessidade de extensão de prazo e/ou de qualquer alteração dos pressupostos atinentes ao presente parecer o Investigador Principal deverá solicitar a reapreciação do projeto de investigação junto do EPD.

Revisão AIPD:

☐

Data da próxima revisão: ____ / ____ / ____

☒

Não carece de revisão.

Anexos:

1. Processo CES n.º 262/2023
2. Parecer CES (07/09/2023)
3. AIPD (18/09/2023)
4. Consentimento Informado e Informação ao Participante
5. Protocolo de Investigação

Encarregado de Proteção de Dados:

Assinado por: **PAULO ALEXANDRE MOTA DA SILVA**

Data: 2023.10.19 12:18:03+01'00'

Localização: CHUSJ



CARTÃO DE CIDADÃO
• • • •