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Scientific Abstract

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General Practitioner's Perspective regarding Value of Sexual Function in Patient's Quality of Life

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Objectives

General practitioner (GP), the first line on health care system, should obtain a complete health history from patients, including sexual history. Sexual issues constitute only a small portion (0.68%) in Indonesian guideline of doctor's professional competence. Low exposure of this topic will affect GP's perspective towards sexual problems. GPs' perspective regarding value of sexual function is an important factor that will determine their willingness to be open to discussions about sexuality with patients.

Materials and Methods

Cross-sectional study using questionnaire was used to measure GPs' attitudes towards their response when discussing sexual problems, necessity of knowledge about sexual function, and view of interpersonal relationship.

Results

Ninety-nine GPs, 71.7% female and 28.3% male with mean age 29.71 ± 5.78 years old, participated in this study. Forty-nine respondents are unable to give any medical advice or treatment about sexual health problems. Around 85.9% GPs were interested in acquiring knowledge about initial management of sexual dysfunction. Most GPs (31.3%) placed interpersonal relationship on the second order in mental dimension of quality of life. Only 9.1% showed it as the most important element.

Conclusion

The results showed high need in improving knowledge regarding sexual dysfunctions. GPs perceived the value of sexual function, a part of interpersonal relationship, as an important mental aspect of quality of life. It is recommended to provide continuous training to upgrade GP's knowledge about sexual problems. Competences concerning sexual issues should be stated more specifically in the guideline.