BODY IMAGE AND PSYCHOSEXUAL FUNCTIONING
IN LATE IDENTIFIED INDONESIAN ADULTS WITH A DISORDER OF SEX DEVELOPMENT

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BACKGROUND

In Indonesia, treatment for disorder of sex development (DSD) recently became accessible for a large group of patients. In these patients, DSD had been identified lately. At admission, patients suffered from genital ambiguity and ambiguous physical appearance due to the development of secondary sex characteristics not in line with the gender of rearing.

OBJECTIVES

To investigate body image and psychosexual functioning in late identified treated and untreated male and female adult Indonesian patients with DSD.

RESULTS

Measurement reliability analysis:

Principal component analysis (PCA) for exploratory and confirmatory analysis followed by reliability analysis using Cronbach alpha for internal consistency had been applied.

- BIS: PCA on female scale extracted four in components and 60.48% of the total variance was explained. Cronbach alpha of all items in the female scale α = .95; alpha of components ranged from .77 - .83.
- FSFI: PCA reduced the items into three components: 1) desire- arousal (α = .820) and 2) lubrication- orgasm-satisfaction-pain (α = .953). 70.34% of the total variance is explained. Cronbach alpha for all items α = .948.
- MSHQ: PCA reduced the items into four components: 1) erection (α = .509), 2) ejaculation (α = .907), 3) satisfaction (α = .968), and 4) sexual activity and desire (α = .462). Cronbach alpha for all items α = .738.

Comparison analysis:

Fisher Exact test for differences between patient and control groups.

None of the females with DSD had been married or engaged in sexual relationships. Only the domain of sexual desire could be analyzed due to this lack of sexual experience.

Equal numbers of females with DSD reported high sexual desire (36.4%) and no sexual desire (31.8%) whereas equal numbers of control females reported medium or low levels of desire (p=.001).

CONCLUSION

- Females with DSD were less satisfied with their bodies and experienced more sexual distress than control females.
- Males with DSD felt satisfied with their bodies. They reported less satisfaction in sexual relationships and more ejaculation problems than control males.
- Female subjects were open in discussing their concern on body ambiguity and sexual functioning while male patients seem to retain such information. Indonesian taboo to discuss sexuality and the female interviewer may have introduced a bias.

REFERENCE

1. Lipton TW & Paul IB. A body image scale for evaluating transsexuals. Arch Sex Behav. 1976;5:438-456