

**PREVALENCE OF HYPOACTIVE SEXUAL DESIRE DISORDER (HSDD) IN SURGICALLY MENOPAUSAL (SM) WOMEN IN WESTERN EUROPE: RESULTS FROM THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF HEALTH AND SEXUALITY (WISHES) STUDY**

**SEXUALITY**

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**Objective:** Determine the prevalence of HSDD and relationship between low sexual desire (LSD) and sexual activity or sexual partner relationship satisfaction among SM women in four western European countries.

**Methods:** WISHES, a cross-sectional survey of women aged 20-70, included 427 SM women (bilateral oophorectomy with/without hysterectomy), from France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom (UK). The survey included questions on frequency of sexual activities, satisfaction with partner relationships and sex life, and two validated questionnaires (Profile of Female Sexual Function © and the Personal Distress Scale ©) used to classify women with low desire and HSDD.

**Results:** The mean age at baseline of 54 years was similar across countries. A lower percentage of German women were married and reported shorter relationship length. The percentage of SM women classified with LSD was 40%, overall, ranging from 35% (UK) to 44% (Italy) with no significant differences across countries. There were also no significant differences in the percentage of SM women classified as having low sexual desire and distress or with HSDD in France, Italy and UK (22%, 13%, and 16% , respectively). However, in Germany the percentage with HSDD (7%) was significantly lower compared to France and the UK, even after baseline imbalance adjustments. Overall, SM women with LSD reported decreased frequency of self-initiated sex, partner initiated sex, intercourse, and orgasm than women without LSD ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Additionally, SM women with HSDD were significantly more likely to report dissatisfaction with their sex lives and with their relationships ( $p < 0.0001$  for both). There was a strong positive correlation between sexual desire scores and arousal, orgasm and sexual pleasure scores ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Overall, 40% of SM women in the four countries were classified with LSD, and 14% with HSDD. The absence of differences across countries in prevalence of LSD desire may be related to the loss of ovarian hormones in SM women. The difference in the prevalence of distress and HSDD in Germany vs. other countries may reflect cultural factors that impact how women's experience their LSD. Sexual function and satisfaction with sex life and partner relationship were negatively associated with HSDD.