

Park, B. et al Review

This paper explores the potential link between negative sexual outcomes and excessive use of internet pornography among men under age 40. The authors present three case studies and related literature in which excessive internet pornography use appears to be linked to diminished libido, difficulty achieving and/or maintaining an erection during sexual contact with a partner.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Originality/Novelty: The question posed by the authors is very timely and well defined. The evidence presented and the discussion of potential links between sexual dysfunction excessive internet pornography use is compelling, as this is becoming a public health issue for young men.

Significance: The authors present three case studies; the bulk of their discussion relates to previous research by others who have examined psychological and neurological associations that might be linked to this issue. The authors acknowledge that this field of research is in its infancy and that a critical mass of evidence does not yet exist to support a causal association between excessive internet pornography use and sexual dysfunction in young men.

Quality of Presentation: The authors present their ideas clearly and logically. Their own case studies are relatively short and there does not appear to be any analyses specific to those cases. However, they appropriately present other research to support their hypothesis.

Scientific Soundness: Three very brief case studies represent all of the original data presented in this paper. There is no discussion of methods. There does not appear to be any effort to obtain further information from these patients and no analysis of the cases is provided.

Interest to the Readers: The proposed conclusions made by the authors would be of interest to those in several disciplines, particularly health related fields.

Overall Merit: The potential link between excessive internet pornography use and sexual dysfunction in otherwise healthy young men is an important issue, which requires further research. Although the case studies do little to further our knowledge in this area, the information presented in this paper provides a basis upon which to pursue further research.

English Level: The paper is well written and accessible to most readers in terms of disciplinary jargon.

SPECIFIC FEEDBACK:

- The authors do not acknowledge performance anxiety as a potential cause of internet pornography use.
- Line 117-119 – what reference are the authors using for the term “abnormally low sexual desire” ?