Is sexual dysfunction in women after restorative proctocolectomy with ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA) caused by autonomic pelvic nerve damage?

Submission date	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	Prospectively registered		
20/07/2009		Protocol		
Registration date	Overall study status	Statistical analysis plan		
18/08/2009	Completed Condition category	Results		
Last Edited		[] Individual participant data		
18/08/2009	Digestive System	Record updated in last year		

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Contact details

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number MEC 03/281 # 04.17.0283

Study information

Scientific Title

A prospective clinical trial of autonomic pelvic nerve damage in women with sexual dysfunction after restorative proctocolectomy with ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA)

Acronym

Plexlab

Study objectives

Sexual dysfunction after ileal pouch anal anastomosis (IPAA) is common. The most systematic physical reaction to sexual stimulation is an increase in vaginal vasocongestion. Damage to the autonomic nerves disrupt this process. Genital response can be assessed by vaginal pulse amplitude using vaginal photoplethysmography. To date, little is known about the contribution of damage to the pelvic autonomic nerves. Aim of this prospective study was to assess whether IPAA is associated with autonomic pelvic nerve damage and changes in subjective indices of sexual function in women.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Medische Ethische Commissie approved on the 25th February 2004 (ref: MEC 03/281 # 04.17.0283)

Study design

Single-centre prospective clinical trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Ulcerative colitis

Interventions

During sexual stimulation (visual and vibrotactile) changes in vaginal vasocongestion were measured by vaginal photoplethysmography. This is currently the most sensitive, specific and reliable instrument for measuring vaginal vasocongestion. Vaginal pulse amplitude (VPA) fluctuations reflect phasic changes in the blood content of the illuminated capillary bed of the vaginal wall at each heart beat, with greater amplitudes indicating increased vasoengorgement. Concurrently, quality of life (36-item short form health survey [SF-36]) and sexual functioning (Female Sexual Function Index [FSFI], Female Sexual Distress Scale [FSDS]) were assessed using validated questionnaires.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Measured pre- and post-operatively:

- 1. Difference in VPA
- 2. Feelings of sexual arousal and estimated lubrication
- 3. Difference in psychological and sexual functioning

Key secondary outcome(s))

No secondary outcome measures

Completion date

01/01/2006

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

- 1. Female patients
- 2. Planned for a laparoscopic proctocolectomy with IPAA
- 3. Aged greater than 18 years
- 4. Informed consent

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

Female

Key exclusion criteria

- 1. Prior midline laparotomy
- 2. Operation on genitals
- 3. Diabetes mellitus
- 4. History of sexual abuse
- 5. Pre-existent sexual dysfunction
- 6. Use of medication with a possible effect on sexual response
- 7. Presence of a depressive disorder

Date of first enrolment

01/04/2004

Date of final enrolment

01/01/2006

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Netherlands

Study participating centre Meibergdreef 11 Amsterdam Netherlands 1100 DD

Sponsor information

Organisation

Dutch Association for Gastroenterology (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Gastroenterologie) (Netherlands)

ROR

https://ror.org/0203tey58

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

Gastrostart (Netherlands) (ref: CL/MvG/20.3/PROJECT 15-2003)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type Details Date created Date added Peer reviewed? Patient-facing?

Participant information sheet

Participant information sheet 11/11/2025 11/11/2025 No