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Does the filling state of the seminal vesicles influence sexual desire?

Submission date
03/04/2014

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
09/05/2014

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
24/07/2020

Condition category
Urological and Genital Diseases

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[_] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
The seminal vesicles are part of the male inner genitals. It is not known if the seminal vesicles have an impact on sexual interest, i.e. if full seminal vesicles increase sexual interest. This would potentially make sense from a biological/behavioural point of view. The aim of this study is to find out if there is any specific brain area that changes its activity in relation to the filling status of the seminal vesicles. The detection of such a specific brain area would suggest that the filling status of the seminal vesicles changes the activity in the brain.

Who can participate?
Heterosexual men between the ages of 20 and 30

What does the study involve?
On day 1 in the morning, participants provide a blood sample for analysis of sex hormone levels, a conventional MRI scan of the pelvis to assess the size of the seminal vesicles, and a functional MRI of the brain. After these examinations, they masturbate in order to empty their seminal vesicles. On day 2 in the morning, they undergo the same examinations.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The detection of specific brain areas would potentially have a clinical impact in men undergoing radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer, which nowadays is usually performed with removal of both seminal vesicles. If a relationship is found between seminal vesicle filling status, specific brain areas and sexual interest and confirmed by further clinical studies, the standard removal of the seminal vesicles during radical prostatectomy could be re-thought in order to potentially help to preserve sexual interest. There are no risks involved in this study.

Where is the study run from?
University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
May 2014 to April 2015

Who is funding the study?
Max and Hedwig Niedermaier Foundation and University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Frédéric Birkhäuser
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
Does the filling state of the seminal vesicles influence sexual desire? A pilot study

Study objectives
Filling state of seminal vesicles is an independent factor for the intensity of sexual desire, influencing sexual arousal in healthy men.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Kantonale Ethikkommission Bern (KEK), 05/09/2014, ref: 005/14

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Interventional study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
The physiological role of healthy seminal vesicles on sexual desire

Interventions
The five participants all undergo the same intervention. On day 1 in the morning, they first undergo a blood analysis (5 min), thereafter they undergo a conventional MRI of the pelvis and a functional MRI of the brain (40 min). After these examinations, they masturbate in order to empty their seminal vesicles. On day 2 in the morning, they undergo exactly the same examinations.

Intervention Type
Other

Phase
Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)
The effect of seminal vesicle filling state on cortical activation and sexual arousal investigated by fMRI, which would be reflected by a reduced activation of specific regions in fMRI of the brain on study after ejaculation.

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Changes in sexual arousal score with full/empty seminal vesicles
2. Changes of volume in seminal vesicles during first (before ejaculation) and second (after ejaculation) MRI examination

Completion date
30/04/2015

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Men between the age of 20 and 30
2. Heterosexuality
3. Written informed consent
4. Ejaculation abstention of 3-5 days before first fMRI examination

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
Male

Key exclusion criteria

1. Erectile dysfunction
2. Claustrophobia
3. Depression
4. Status post brain trauma
5. Severely reduced visibility
6. Medication intake with possible side effects on libido

Date of first enrolment
01/05/2014

Date of final enrolment
30/04/2015

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Switzerland

Study participating centre
University Hospital Bern
Bern
Switzerland
3010

Sponsor information

Organisation
University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

ROR
https://ror.org/01q9sj412

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Max and Hedwig Niedermaier Foundation (Switzerland)

Funder Name
University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration