

PARTNER RESPONSES TO LOW SEXUAL DESIRE

This study wanted to examine how partners respond to low sexual desire partners.

Partner Responses to Low Desire:
Associations With Sexual, Relational,
and Psychological Well-Being Among
Couples Coping With Female Sexual
Interest/Arousal Disorder

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*Scroll to see
what we found!*



BACKGROUND INFO:

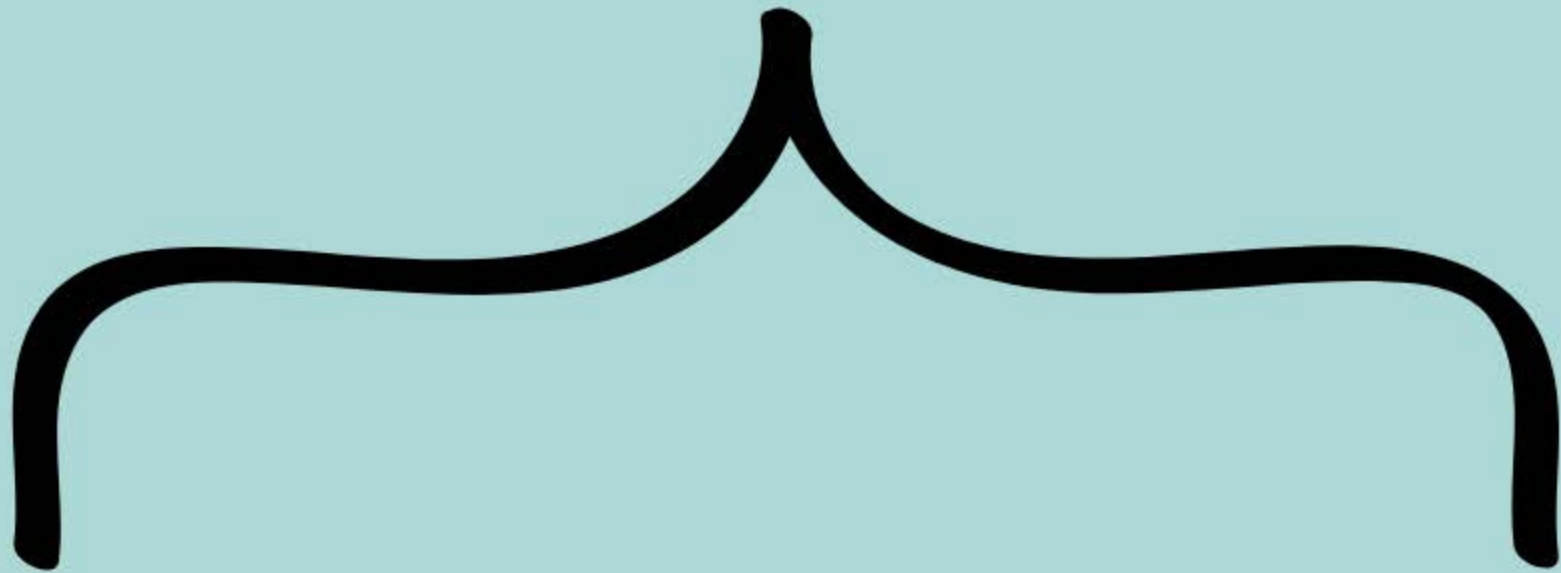
What is FSIAD

Female Sexual Interest/Arousal Disorder or FSIAD is characterized by **prolonged** and **significant distress** about one's experience of low sexual desire.



Women in romantic relationships are **5x more likely** to experience distress about low desire than single women.

BACKGROUND INFO:



Biological
Factors

(e.g. hormonal
changes)

Psychological
Factors

(e.g. history of
depression)

Interpersonal
Factors

(e.g. relationship
duration)

These three factors can all contribute to the
development of FSIAD

WE WANTED TO KNOW:



1

The associations between responses to low desire and the sexual, relational, and psychological well-being of couples coping with FSIAD.

2

The link between partner responses and aspects of couples' well-being changed over the course of a year.

What we Did :

89 women with FSIAD and their partners were recruited

The women with FSAID were asked to measure how they thought their partner reacted to low sexual desire by a word-pair scale.

Their partners used the same word-pair scale and were asked about they thought they reacted to their low distress partner.



WE FOUND THAT...

When women with FSIAD **viewed** their partner's responses to low desire as **more positive...**



...they reported **greater relationship satisfaction** and had partners that reported lower levels of anxiety

When **partners'** responses to FSIAD were **more positive...**



...they reported **greater** relational, sexual, and psychological well-being.



So, what does all of this mean?

This suggests that **interpersonal factors** are important to consider in a relationship where one partner has FSIAD. Specifically, when the partner with FSIAD **perceived their partner** to be **warm, compassionate, and understanding** they found that their own sexual well-being was **greater**.



Positive responses may help partners come up with **effective communication strategies** such as problem solving or reframing a situation. All of this suggests that the way **a partner responds** to low sexual desire is an important interpersonal factor to focus on during couple based interventions for low desire.



This is a summary of our published article:

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