

COULD SEXUAL DYSFUNCTIONS BE A CAUSE OF UNEXPLAINED MALE INFERTILITY?

I. DUMBRAVEANU, Iu. ARIAN, Mariana CRECIUN, Victoria GHENCIU, P. CEPRAGA, Irina SAGAIDAC

Laboratory of Andrology, Functional Urology and Sexual Medicine, *Nicolae Testemitanu* State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova

ABSTRACT

Introduction. Sexual disorders such as erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation or delayed ejaculation are underestimated in the assessment of infertile couples. Sexual dysfunctions are considered to occur more frequently in infertile couples because of psychogenic, relational and/or organic problems related to the inability to conceive. There are studies that state that changing spermogram thresholds are associated with the severity of erectile dysfunction, and men in infertile couples more frequently have premature ejaculation. At the same time there are few studies that would claim that male infertility is a consequence of sexual dysfunction. The cause of infertility is unexplained in about 20-30% of cases. Although the likelihood of a spontaneous pregnancy in couples with this form of infertility is higher than in other forms of infertility, clinicians are still searching for possible causes of the problem. The aim of the study was to assess sexual function in couples with

unexplained infertility. **Material and methods.** The study included 38 men aged 23 to 46 years with unexplained infertility, who completed the Erectile Function Evaluation Questionnaire (EFIQ) and the Premature Ejaculation Diagnostic Tool (PEDT). **Results conclusions.** Absence of erectile or ejaculatory dysfunction was present in 23 (60%) men. 12 (31%) patients had erectile dysfunction of various degrees, excluding 2 (5%) severe erectile dysfunctions. 17 patients had ejaculatory dysfunctions, 1 (2.6%) traditional ejaculation, 16 (42%) premature ejaculation, including 5 (13%) with premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction. **Conclusions.** It is difficult to state that the sexual dysfunctions detected were the cause of infertility in the couple, but it is certain that pregnancy occurred after treatment in 2 cases. We recommend the inclusion of erectile or ejaculatory function determination questionnaires in the evaluation of all men in couples with unexplained infertility.