

Trinity College Dublin



The MAMMI Study

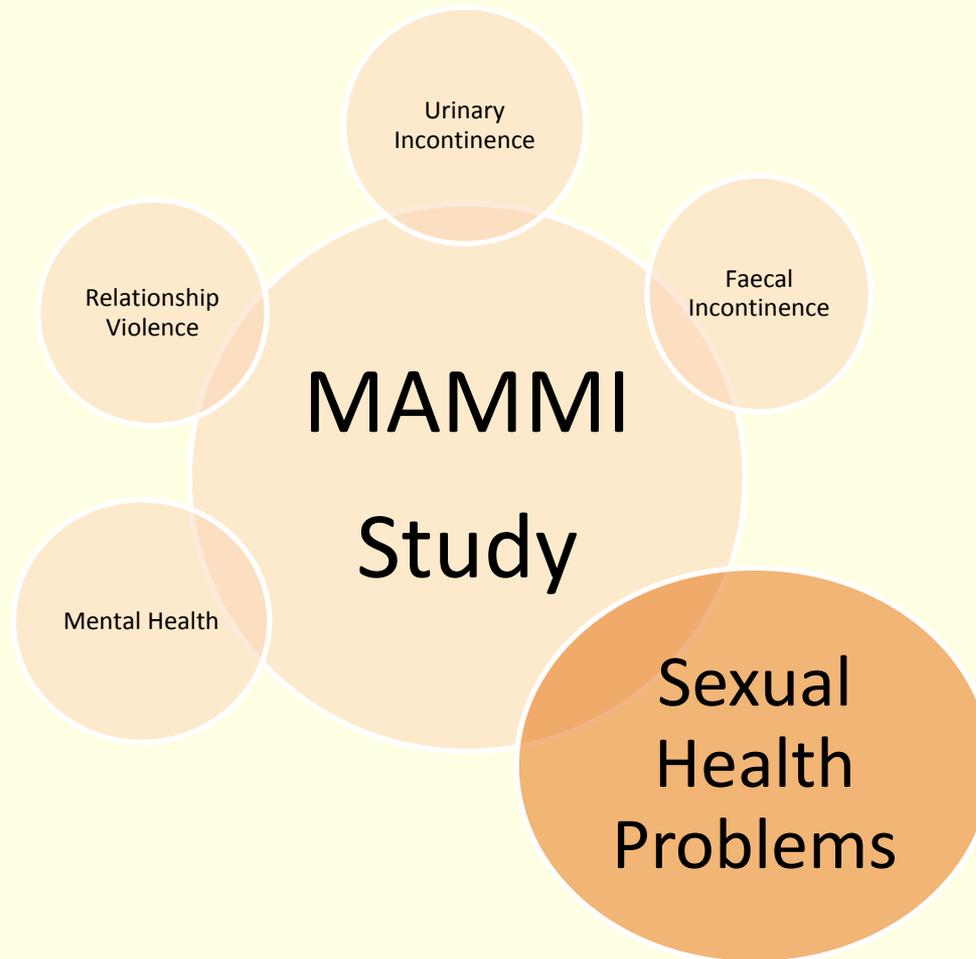
Self-reported maternal sexual health related experiences in early pregnancy: Preliminary results from the MAMMI antenatal survey

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Context



Maternal health **And** Maternal **M**orbidity in Ireland

Background

46% & 26% vaginal dryness 3 & 6 months

(Barrett *et al.* 2000)

16% dyspareunia 12 months

(Bertozzi *et al.* 2010)

50% (n=263/482) 1 index of sexual health problems 12 months (Williams *et al.* 2007)

Pre-pregnancy sexual health problems

(Barrett *et al.* 2000, Acele & Karaçam 2012)

Pregnancy onset sexual health problems

(Pauls *et al.* 2008, Acele & Karaçam 2012)

Aim

To present the preliminary qualitative findings of antenatal self-reported sexual health problem related experiences in women participating in Survey 1 of the MAMMI study

725 recruited to date

210 added qualitative comment

Methods

Analysis of qualitative responses related to women's self-report of sexual health problems

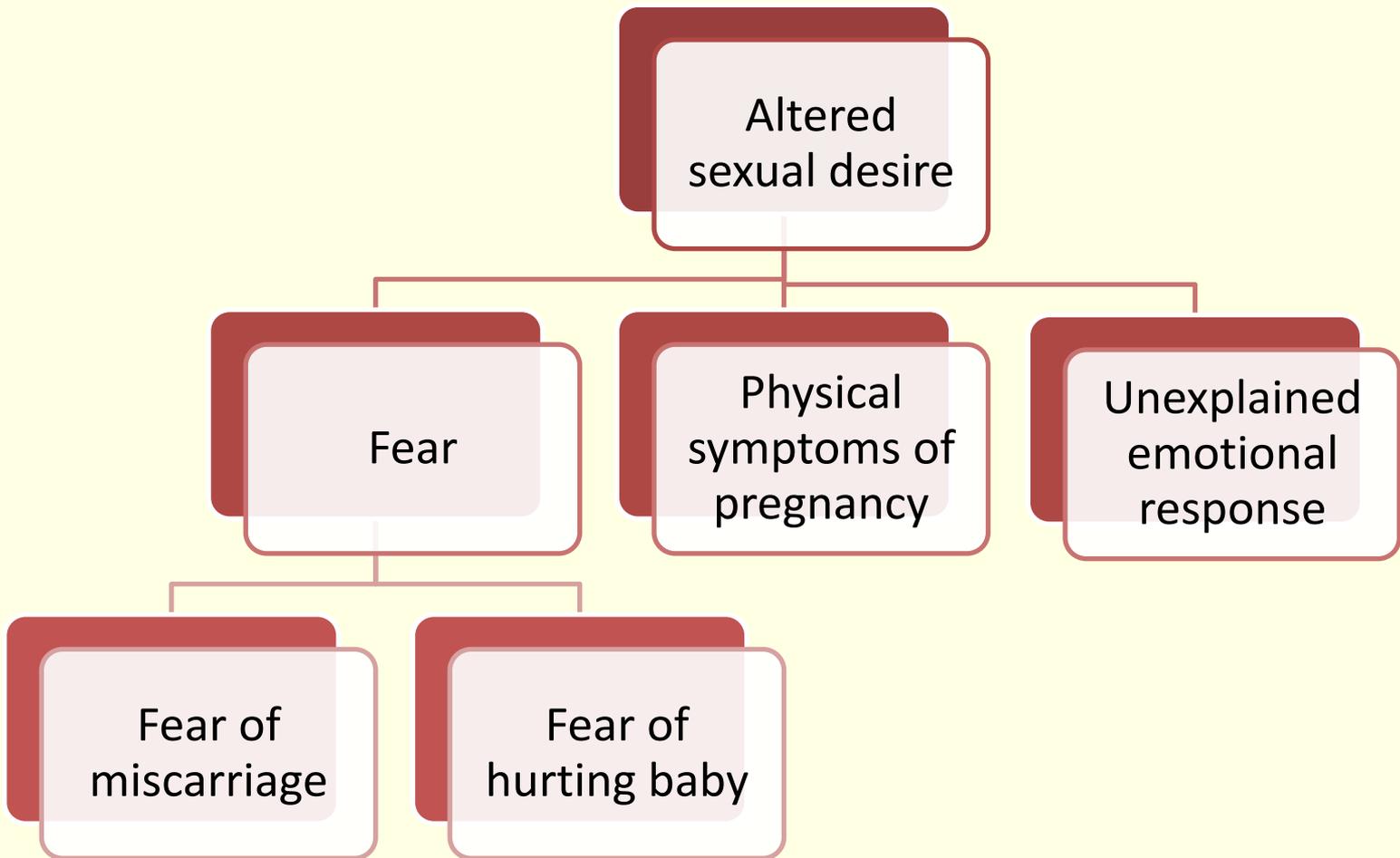
Additional comments added to questions on –

- type of problem experienced
- type of sexual contact
- frequency of sexual intercourse
- satisfaction with sexual life

Change in the frequency of sexual intercourse

Frequency of sexual intercourse (pre)	N (%)		Frequency of sexual intercourse (AN)	N (%)
1-2 times per month	101(14)		1-2 times per month	326(45)
1-2 times per week	399 (55)		1-2 times per week	297(41)
3-4 times per week	159(22)		3-4 times per week	58(8)
More than 4 times per week	36(5)		More than 4 times per week	7(1)

Themes identified



Fear (1)

Fear of miscarriage

'I haven't had sex due to my previous miscarriage. I was advised by my doctor not to have sex until around 20 weeks for safety reasons'

'I avoided vaginal sex until week 12 due to history of miscarriages, I was not advised to do so, just decided'

'Stressed at the idea of losing the baby'

Fear (2)

Fear of hurting the baby

'I think my partner is afraid he could hurt the baby'

'I had only sex when I was on 3 months because my husband was scared for sex as he might hurt the baby, this is our first baby'

'my husband and myself we stopped having sex since I got pregnant due to concerns of affecting our baby's growth'

Physical symptoms of pregnancy

'I have barely had sex because of sickness and then back pain. Its the last thing on my mind!'

'no interest or sex drive compared to pre-pregnancy – am too tired and bloated'

'unable to move so much'

'morning sickness reduced my want for sex (increased my want for sleep)'

Unexplained emotional response

'I don't feel the urge, which worries me a little'

'hope it improves soon'

'I have no interest in sexual relations which is very unlike me'

'noticed decrease interest in sex'

In summary



Sincerest thanks to

The women (all women including those who are not taking part but who read the information)

The midwives and midwifery students and other colleagues who are supporting the MAMMI study

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