

Coitarche and Orgastic Capacity

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In a group of 2,159 gynecological patients, aged 21 to 40, the age at the first sexual intercourse was ascertained and correlated with orgastic capacity during coitus in marital life. All had been married for at least 1 year. Of the examined females, 1,093 who reached orgasm mostly or always during sexual intercourse had their first coitus earlier than 394 women with rare and 165 women with no coital orgasm. The difference between orgastic women and examinees with rare orgasm was significant at the 0.01 level. The difference between females with adequate sexual reactivity and females with no coital orgasm was significant at the 0.001 level.

KEY WORDS: first sexual intercourse; orgastic capacity; female sexuality.

INTRODUCTION

The age at which a woman has her first sexual intercourse is influenced by a number of factors of biological and psychosocial character. Kinsey *et al.* (1953) express the view that of the primary factors that had limited the premarital activity of females, the first—in order of importance—was the sexual unresponsiveness of many younger females. Next was moral tradition, lack of experience, and the individual's fear of engaging in an unfamiliar activity. Fisher (1973) mentions the possibility that women who are most responsive to sexual stimulation are those who are most likely to seek out premarital contacts and experiences that will produce orgasm, and are also those who will do so after marriage, because of their greater responsiveness.

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The aim of our study was to find out the age at first coitus of women who later in marriage experienced orgasm during sexual intercourse frequently, rarely, and never.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Findings are based on the results of an examination of 2,159 gynecological patients married for at least 1 year who were sent to Frant. Lázně for treatment. At the time of examination, the women were between 21 and 40 years of age. None came to the consulting room on their own accord with respect to difficulties in their sex life. About three-quarters of these women lived in sterile marriages in which for at least 1 year no contraception was used. Sexual life was regular without the woman having conceived.

All patients were interviewed by two sexologists on the basis of a fixed examination scheme. Each woman was confronted with 170 standard questions on the following themes: the family milieu in which she had grown up; education; physical and psychosexual development; behavior during coitus; marital relations; environmental factors at work and in the home; neurotic symptoms; etc.

Of these 2,159 women, 1,367 attended primary school only (9 years of schooling), 700 finished high school with matriculation (12 years of schooling), and the remaining 92 graduated from college.

The Smirnov-Kolmogorov test was used in the statistical evaluation.

RESULTS

Of the total group of 2,159 women, 1,093 (50.7%) stated that during sexual intercourse they reached orgasm mostly or always and were satisfied (Subgroup I). Orgasm was defined as the subjective statement of the examinee that she reached a distinct sensorial climax during sexual intercourse. Subgroup II consisted of 394 patients (18.2%) who had orgasm during coitus rarely, and Subgroup III of 165 women (7.6%) with no coital orgasm. The subjects in the latter two subgroups did not, however, experience this as an insufficiency. Analysis of the length of marriage showed no statistically significant differences between the three subgroups.

The remaining 507 examinees showed various signs of disturbances in sex life where they experienced intercourse as imperfect and unsatisfying; these women were considered to be sexually dysfunctional.

Table I. Data on the Age at the First Coitus in 1652 Married Women, who were Divided into Three Subgroups According to the Incidence of Orgasm During Coitus

Orgasm during coitus	N	up to 15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		25		26+	
		abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Mostly or always	1,093	16	1.5	70	6.4	203	18.6	264	24.1	205	18.8	130	11.9	79	7.2	49	4.5	30	2.7	21	1.9	14	1.3	12	1.1
Rarely	394	5	1.3	14	3.6	63	15.9	80	20.3	74	18.8	54	13.7	42	10.7	20	5.1	12	3.0	16	4.0	7	1.8	7	1.8
Never	165	2	1.2	8	4.8	14	8.5	26	15.8	33	20.0	29	17.6	19	11.5	15	9.1	8	4.9	5	3.0	3	1.8	3	1.8

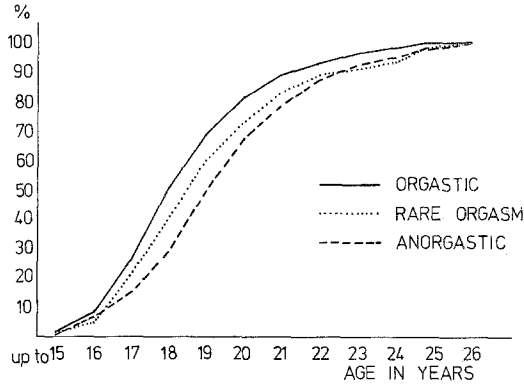


Fig. 1. Cumulative incidence: Age of first coitus in 1652 women divided into three subgroups according to orgasmic capacity in their marital life.

Table I gives the age of the women in Subgroups I-III at their first intercourse. Information concerning the cumulative incidence of the first experience with sexual intercourse in individual years in the three subgroups is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Statistical analysis shows that the difference in coitarche between the orgasmic women (Subgroup I) and the examinees who reached orgasm during coitus only rarely (Subgroup II) is significant at the 0.01 level. The difference between Subgroup I and those with no coital orgasm at all (Subgroup III) is significant at the 0.001 level. Orgasmic women, on average, had their first sexual intercourse earlier than those who, in marital life, reached orgasm during coitus rarely or never.

DISCUSSION

Our findings confirm the view that the age of the first experience with sexual intercourse in women is distinctly associated with their sexual responsiveness. In the subgroup of orgasmic women, 50.6% had the first coital experience before 19 years of age. In the subgroup with rare coital orgasm, on the other hand the corresponding number was 41.1%, and in the subgroup of anorgastic women it was 30.3%.

Sexual responsiveness comes into play at the time when the women had not yet experienced a more frequent orgasm resulting from heterosexual activity. For the time being little is known of biological mechanisms that condition female proceptivity, receptivity (Baum *et al.*, 1977), and orgasmic capacity.

In a previous article (Raboch *et al.*, 1980), we analyzed in the same material the relationship between menarche and coitarche. We found that about only 1% of examinees had their first sexual intercourse before the arrival of the first menstrual bleeding. We ascertained further that the average age at coitarche gradually increased with advancing age at menarche.

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