**Presentation title**

Health Care Fears, Needs and Experiences of People who Practice BDSM

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

* Most doctors will see some patients who practice BDSM in a way that impacts upon their health
* Many doctors do not know because patients fear that disclosure will lead to judgement and discrimination

**Take home message**

* Become more comfortable taking complete sexual histories
* Reassure patients about being non-judgement and confidential
* Become more informed about BDSM and its possible impacts upon health

**Background**

Two percent of Australians engage in Bondage and Discipline, Dominance and submission, and Sadomasochism (BDSM) every year.1 BDSM encompasses a wide range of consensual practices which can involve a high degree of risk and skill. For example, rope bondage requires anatomical knowledge in order to prevent the compression of nerves. Limited international research discusses the relevance of BDSM to Health Care Professionals (HCPs), the barriers to disclosure, and experiences of interactions with HCPs.2

**Aim / Hypothesis**

To investigate the health care experiences of people who practice BDSM in Australia.

**Method**

Mixed method anonymous online survey (n=118). Proportions and 95% confidence intervals were calculated for binary questions and free-form answers were analysed thematically.

**Results & Discussion**

The majority of participants reported that BDSM had an impact on their health and almost one third reported an injury related to their practice of BDSM. Almost all felt that knowledge of BDSM could be relevant for some HCPs; however, less than forty percent had ever disclosed to their doctor. Participants were afraid that disclosure would lead to judgement, discrimination and possible reporting of abuse. When participants did disclose, most found their HCPs receptive and professional.

**Conclusion**

It is important for doctors to know about their patients’ practice of BDSM because it can have an impact on their physical and mental health.

**References**

1. Richters J, de Visser RO, Rissel CE, Grulich AE, Smith AMA. Demographic and psychosocial features of participants in bondage and discipline, "sadomasochism" or dominance and submission (BDSM): data from a national survey. The journal of sexual medicine. 2008;5(7):1660-8.

2. Waldura JF, Arora I, Randall AM, Farala JP, Sprott RA. Fifty Shades of Stigma: Exploring the Health Care Experiences of Kink-Oriented Patients. Journal of Sexual Medicine. 2016;13(12):1918-29.