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| **Title of Research Presentation** Health professional’s current practices regarding advice to clients on sex and intimacy following a heart attack |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**Heart attack survivors experience physical, psychological and social challenges that can impact their quality of life. A 2014 National Heart Foundation of Australia survey found 55% of heart attack survivors had not spoken to a health professional (HP) about sexual activity after their heart attack or been provided with related information. Research suggests sexual health support and counselling by HPs may be beneficial in addressing sex and intimacy issues. This research explored current practices and resource needs of Australian HPs in addressing sex and intimacy with clients post heart attack.**Methods**An online survey was distributed to Australian HPs by the Heart Foundation in 2017 which comprised items related to HP’s current practices in addressing sex and intimacy with clients post heart attack and resource needs. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse quantitative data and thematic analysis of qualitative data. **Results**A total of 251 HPs completed the survey with the majority being nurses (56%), cardiac rehabilitation specialists (9%), physiotherapists (7%), general practitioners (5%) and cardiologists (5%). HPs reported it important to discuss sexual activity (87%) and intimacy (85%) with clients after heart attack, however, only 24% reported discussing sex and 22% intimacy with their clients regularly or all the time. General practitioners (81%), cardiac rehabilitation specialists (80%) and cardiologists (75%) were reported as best placed to discuss sex with heart attack clients and general practitioners (74%), cardiac rehabilitation specialists (74%) or a counsellor/therapist (66%) to discuss intimacy. HPs were comfortable discussing sex (75%) and intimacy (69%) with men, sex (81%) and intimacy (75%) with women, and sex (52%) and intimacy (51%) with people from all backgrounds. HPs reported being confident with the sex (62%) and intimacy (49%) advice they provide, and sufficient time, protocols to guide discussion, and consumer support resources as practice challenges. **Discussion**Findings which are consistent with other research suggest that whist the majority of HPs report it important and approximately half confident to discuss sex and intimacy with clients after a heart attack, few do so as part of their practice. Resourcing issues need to be taken into consideration in the provision of services to support the health and wellbeing needs of heart attack survivors.**Keywords**Health professionals; sex; intimacy |