

Sexual hallucinations: Phenomenological characteristics and relation with trauma and the incubus phenomenon

Published: 14-03-2019

Last updated: 11-04-2024

To establish the point prevalence rate as well as the lifetime prevalence rate of sexual hallucinations in patients diagnosed with a borderline personality disorder, and to establish the relation of these hallucinations with childhood trauma as well...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Sexual dysfunctions, disturbances and gender identity disorders
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON46130

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Sexual hallucinations

Condition

- Sexual dysfunctions, disturbances and gender identity disorders

Synonym

Hallucinated sexual sensations

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Leiden

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Parnassia Academie

Intervention

Keyword: Childhood trauma, Erotic hallucination, Incubus phenomenon, Sexual trauma

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Point prevalence rate and lifetime prevalence rate of sexual hallucinations;
phenomenological characteristics of sexual hallucinations; relation with
childhood trauma; relation with sleep paralysis (i.e. incubus phenomenon);
quality of sleep.

Secondary outcome

NA

Study description

Background summary

Sexual hallucinations are hardly researched phenomena. Clinical practice indicates that they can be extremely burdening, driving patients to unusual and sometimes desperate behaviour - occasionally entailing suicide. A recent study by Blom and Mangoenkarso (2018) among clinical patients diagnosed with schizophrenia yielded a one-year prevalence rate of 0.017 for sexual hallucinations. Moreover, it yielded a strong correlation with childhood trauma, with an OR of 8.7. Since childhood trauma is also oft-reported in the context of borderline personality disorder, we expect that sexual hallucinations can be found in this group, too, and that they may well be underreported in clinical practice. There is no prior research in this area, so similar to the schizophrenia group, we would like to establish the prevalence rate of sexual hallucinations in the population of patients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, as well as their relation with childhood trauma. Because sexual hallucinations can also be experienced in the context of sleep paralysis (i.e., incubus phenomenon), we would like to investigate this possible connection, too.

Study objective

To establish the point prevalence rate as well as the lifetime prevalence rate

of sexual hallucinations in patients diagnosed with a borderline personality disorder, and to establish the relation of these hallucinations with childhood trauma as well as with sleep paralysis (i.e., incubus phenomenon).

Study design

Test persons (N=200) will be recruited at outpatient clinics of PsyQ, Parnassia Psychiatric Institute. After explanation of the study and after test persons have given their informed consent, the following questionnaires will be administered:

- Vragenlijst Seksuele Hallucinaties en Wanen (VSHW)
 - Jeugd Trauma Vragenlijst - Lange Versie (JTV-LV)
 - Insomnia Severity Index (ISI)
 - Waterloo Unusual Sleep Experiences Scale (WUSES) - Dutch version
- The results will be analysed with the aid of SPSS version 23.0.

Study burden and risks

The investment in time will be approximately 90 minutes per test person. There is a certain risk that participants will experience several questions as intrusive in nature, although in our experience most of them are relieved when they are able to talk about this theme. Moreover, the results of the individual interviews - if the patient allows them to be shared with their treating physician - can help to improve their diagnosis and treatment.

Contacts

Public

Universiteit Leiden

Wassenaarseweg 52
Leiden 2333 AK
NL

Scientific

Universiteit Leiden

Wassenaarseweg 52
Leiden 2333 AK
NL

Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Age 18 years or older

Personality disorder, as diagnosed in conformity with the DSM-5

History of sexual hallucinations

Capable of giving informed consent

Exclusion criteria

Age below 18 years

Psychiatric crisis

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Basic science

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated): 01-12-2018

Enrollment: 200

Type:

Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date:

14-03-2019

Application type:

First submission

Review commission:

METC Leiden-Den Haag-Delft (Leiden)

metc-ldd@lumc.nl

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register

CCMO

ID

NL66211.058.18