P1-9: Systematic Review of Research Studies with the Sexual Relationship Power Scale

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Abstract:
Introduction: Risky sexual behaviors remain significantly high among minority women. Women’s lack of negotiation power has been identified as a key factor in unsafe sex behaviors, increasing the need for empirical evidence to understand such barriers. Pulerwitz, Gortmaker and DeJong (2000) developed the Sexual Relationship Power Scale (SRPS) in English and Spanish. The scale measures women’s relationship power and consists of a relationship power subscale (RCS) and decision-making dominance subscale (DMDS). The purpose of this systematic review is to examine the reliability and validity of the scale across published studies as well as to integrate the results and suggest implications for practice to increase the understanding of power in relation to interrelationship problems.
**Method(s):** A systematic search of the literature was conducted within Pubmed, CINHAL, Pschyinfo and Web of Science. Articles that integrated the SRPS were sought using a keyword search (sexual relationship power scale and sexual relationship power) and with a cited article search.

**Results:** Ten studies met the criteria for the review. Low SRPS score is found to be related to an increase in sexual and non-sexual violence as well as inconsistent condom use across the study populations among different geographical locations and relationship types. The RCS demonstrated good validity and reliability. However, concerns were raised about the reliability of the DMDS. More research is needed.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Analysis of study results suggests that interventions are needed to balance relationship power across genders. Both men and women must be actively involved to promote healthy sexual relationship. Thus, negative consequences of violence and unsafe sex behavior among couples would be mitigated and couples would openly build healthy relationship with safe sexual behavior. The potential use of the SPRS in clinic settings is suggested due to its easy administration and promising application to approaching women or couples in family planning counseling. From a research perspective, examining multiple levels of relationship is suggested in future studies as individuals are involved in more complex types of relationships, including primary and extra dyadic ones, as well as same-sex sexual contacts.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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