

Social Support for Female Sexual Dysfunction in Fibromyalgia

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The aim of this study is to describe and understand experiences related to social support for women with fibromyalgia who suffer from sexual dysfunction. An interpretive qualitative research methodology based on Gadamer's philosophical hermeneutics was used. Data collection included a focus group and in-depth interviews with 13 women who averaged 44.8 years of age and 14.3 years since being diagnosed with fibromyalgia. Data were analyzed using Fleming's method and two themes were identified: 'searching for understanding in socio-family support' and 'lack of formal support regarding fibromyalgia patient's sexuality.' The partner constitutes the main support for women with fibromyalgia. Although they can find understanding and social support in patient associations, they lack formal support from health care professionals. Women demand trusted and expert professionals, like sexologists and nurses, to carry out a multidisciplinary approach to tackle sexual dysfunction associated with fibromyalgia. © 2016, © The Author(s) 2016.

female

fibromyalgia

phenomenology

sexual dysfunction

adult

coping behavior

female

fibromyalgia

hermeneutics

human

information processing

interview

pathophysiology

psychology

sexuality

social support

women's health

Adaptation, Psychological

Adult

Female

Fibromyalgia

Focus Groups

Hermeneutics

Humans

Interviews as Topic

Sexuality

Social Support

Women's Health