After Trauma, 31% Report Sexual Dysfunction

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SAN FRANCISCO — Nearly one-third of trauma patients reported at least some degree of sexual dysfunction a year after injury, according to a multicenter prospective cohort study.

This rate is about double that of healthy patients, and triple that of healthy patients under the age of 50 years, Dr. Matthew D. Sorenson said at the annual clinical conference of the American College of Surgeons.

"In fact, we found that a moderate to severe traumatic injury imparts a risk of sexual dysfunction above and beyond the risk that may be imparted by known risk factors for sexual dysfunction, such as increasing age, diabetes, and lower socioeconomic status," Dr. Sorensen of the University of Washington, Seattle, said in a prepared statement.

The study was based on data from the National Study on the Costs and Outcomes of Trauma (NSCOT), which included 69 hospitals from 15 geographic regions in the United States. Patients were between 18 and 84 years of age and had moderate to severe injuries. A year following their injuries patients completed a 45-minute phone interview.

Of 10,122 patients, 3,087 (31%) answered yes to the question, "As a result of your physical health, were you limited in your ability to have sexual relations?"

Investigators then assessed whether those patients had mild or severe sexual dysfunction. For 57% of the patients with sexual dysfunction, that dysfunction was severe.

The investigators performed a multivariate analysis, adjusting for gender, race, marital status, mechanism of injury, and genitourinary injury to determine the independent predictors of severe sexual dysfunction.

As expected, spinal cord injury emerged as the best predictor of severe sexual dysfunction, with an adjusted relative risk of 3.7. But with the relative risk of 2.3, very severe injury turned out to be a better predictor of severe sexual dysfunction than did either pelvic fracture or a lower extremity fracture, both of which had relative risks of 1.5.

Other significant independent predictors of severe sexual dysfunction were age, global health status, diabetes, and income category.

Chronic pain proved to be another independent predictor of severe sexual dysfunction after the investigators adjusted for age, gender, race, comorbidities, self-reported health, mechanism of injury, injury severity, pelvic fracture, spinal cord injury, lower extremity fracture, and genitourinary injury.

Patients with pain grade II (high intensity) had 2.4 times the risk of severe sexual dysfunction than those with no pain. That adjusted odds ratio increased to 7.26 among patients with pain grade III (moderately limiting), and to 36.4 among patients with pain grade IV (severely limiting).

The investigators also found an independent association between sexual dysfunction and depression. Patients with depressive symptoms had more than seven times the risk of severe sexual dysfunction than those with no depressive symptoms. However, in response to a question from the audience, Dr. Sorensen said, "Whether it's the sexual dysfunction that's causing depression or the depression that's causing sexual dysfunction, that's all really unknown."

The prepared statement quoted Dr. Sorensen as saying that these findings should serve as a wake-up call for physicians who treat trauma patients. "For most practitioners, both primary care and trauma physicians, sexual function is not on their radar screen, and most often they think of erectile dysfunction in men. … But sexual dysfunction is a major determinant of quality of life, impacts both men and women, and if physicians don't ask patients about their sexual health, the patients are unlikely to bring it up. This is something physicians should be asking their patients about, because there are excellent medications that work in the majority of patients."

NSCOT was supported by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Sorensen disclosed no conflicts of interest. ■

References: 1. Woerle HJ, Neumann C, Zschau S, et al. Impact of fasting and postprandial glycemia on overall glycemic control in type 2 diabetes: importance of postprandial glycemia to achieve target HbA1c levels. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract.* 2007;77(2):280-285. **2.** Liebl A, Prager R, Binz K, Kaiser M, Bergenstal R, Gallwitz B, for the PREFER Study Group. Comparison of insulin analogue regimens in people with type 2 diabetes mellitus in the PREFER Study: a randomized controlled trial [published online ahead of print July 17, 2008]. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* doi:10.1111/j.1463-1326.2008.00915.X. **3.** American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes—2008. *Diabetes Care.* 2008;31(suppl 1):S12-S54.

NovoLog® (insulin aspart [rDNA origin] injection)

Rx only

BRIEF SUMMARY. Please consult package insert for full prescribing information.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: NovoLog® is an insulin analog indicated to improve glycemic control in adults and children with diabetes mellitus.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: NovoLog® is contraindicated during episodes of hypoglycemia and in patients hypersensitive to NovoLog® or one of its excipients.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS: Administration: NovoLog® has a more rapid onset of action and a shorter duration of activity than regular human insulin. An injection of NovoLog® should immediately be followed by a meal within 5-10 minutes. Because of NovoLog®'s short duration of action, a longer acting insulin should also be used in patients with type 1 diabetes and may also be needed in patients with type 2 diabetes. Glucose monitoring is recommended for all patients with diabetes and is particularly important for patients using external pump infusion therapy. Any change of insulin dose should be made cautiously and only under medical supervision. Changing from one insulin product to another or changing the insulin strength may result in the need for a change in dosage. As with all insulin preparations, the time course of NovoLog® action may vary in different individuals or at different times in the same individual and is dependent on many conditions, including the site of injection, local blood supply, temperature, and physical activity. Patients who change their level of physical activity or meal plan may require adjustment of insulin dosages. Insulin requirements may be altered during illness, emotional disturbances, or other stresses. Patients using continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion pump therapy must be trained to administer insulin by injection and have alternate insulin therapy available in case of pump failure. **Hypoglycemia:** Hypoglycemia is the most common adverse effect of all insulin therapies, including NovoLog®. Severe hypoglycemia may lead to unconsciousness and/or convulsions and may result in temporary or permanent impairment of brain function or death. Severe hypoglycemia requiring the assistance of another person and/or parenteral glucose infusion or glucagon administration has been observed in clinical trials with insulin, including trials with NovoLog®. The timing of hypoglycemia usually reflects the time-action profile of the administered insulin formulations [*see Clinical Pharmacology*]. Other factors such as changes in food intake (e.g., amount of food or timing of meals), injection site, exercise, and concomitant medications may also alter the risk of hypoglycemia [*see Drug Interactions*]. As with all insulins, use caution in patients with hypoglycemia unawareness and in patients who may be predisposed to hypoglycemia (e.g., patients who are fasting or have erratic food intake). The patient's ability to concentrate and react may be impaired as a result of hypoglycemia. This may present a risk in situations where these abilities are especially important, such as driving or operating other machinery. Rapid changes in serum glucose levels may induce symptoms of hypoglycemia in persons with diabetes, regardless of the glucose value. Early warning symptoms of hypoglycemia may be different or less pronounced under certain conditions, such as longstanding diabetes, diabetic nerve disease, use of medications such as beta-blockers, or intensified diabetes control [*see Drug Interactions*]. These situations may result in severe hypoglycemia (and, possibly, loss of consciousness) prior to the patient's awareness of hypoglycemia. Intravenously administered insulin has a more rapid onset of action than subcutaneously administered insulin, requiring more close monitoring for hypoglycemia. **Hypokalemia:** All insulin products, including NovoLog®, cause a shift in potassium from the extracellular to intracellular space, possibly leading to hypokalemia that, if left untreated, may cause respiratory paralysis, ventricular arrhythmia, and death. Use caution in patients who may be at risk for hypokalemia (e.g., patients using potassium-lowering medications, patients taking medications sensitive to serum potassium concentrations, and patients receiving intravenously administered insulin). **Renal Impairment:** As with other insulins, the dose requirements for NovoLog® may be reduced in patients with renal impairment [*see Clinical Pharmacology*]. **Hepatic Impairment:** As with other insulins, the dose requirements for NovoLog® may be reduced in patients with hepatic impairment [*see Clinical Pharmacology*]. **Hypersensitivity and Allergic Reactions:** *Local Reactions* - As with other insulin therapy, patients may experience redness, swelling, or itching at the site of NovoLog® injection. These reactions usually resolve in a few days to a few weeks, but in some occasions, may require discontinuation of NovoLog®. In some instances, these reactions may be related to factors other than insulin, such as irritants in a skin cleansing agent or poor injection technique. Localized reactions and generalized myalgias have been reported with injected metacresol, which is an excipient in NovoLog®. *Systemic Reactions* - Severe, life-threatening, generalized allergy, including anaphylaxis, may occur with any insulin product, including NovoLog®. Anaphylactic reactions with NovoLog® have been reported post-approval. Generalized allergy to insulin may also cause whole body rash (including pruritus), dyspnea, wheezing, hypotension, tachycardia, or diaphoresis. In controlled clinical trials, allergic reactions were reported in 3 of 735 patients (0.4%) treated with regular human insulin and 10 of 1394 patients (0.7%) treated with NovoLog®. In controlled and uncontrolled clinical trials, 3 of 2341 (0.1%) NovoLog®-treated patients discontinued due to allergic reactions. **Antibody Production:** Increases in anti-insulin antibody titers that react with both human insulin and insulin aspart have been observed in patients treated with NovoLog®. Increases in anti-insulin antibodies are observed more frequently with NovoLog® than with regular human insulin. Data from a 12-month controlled trial in patients with type 1 diabetes suggest that the increase in these antibodies is transient, and the differences in antibody levels between the regular human insulin and insulin aspart treatment groups observed at 3 and 6 months were no longer evident at 12 months. The clinical significance of these antibodies is not known. These antibodies do not appear to cause deterioration in glycemic control or necessitate increases in insulin dose. **Mixing of Insulins:** Mixing NovoLog® with NPH human insulin immediately before injection attenuates the peak concentration of NovoLog®, without significantly affecting the time to peak concentration or total bioavailability of NovoLog®. If NovoLog® is mixed with NPH human insulin, NovoLog® should be drawn into the syringe first, and the mixture should be injected immediately after mixing. The efficacy and safety of mixing NovoLog® with insulin preparations produced by other manufacturers have not been studied. Insulin mixtures should not be administered intravenously. **Subcutaneous continuous insulin infusion by external pump: When used in an external subcutaneous insulin infusion pump, NovoLog® should not be mixed with any other insulin or diluent.** When using NovoLog® in an external insulin pump, the NovoLog®-specific information should be followed (e.g., in-use time, frequency of changing infusion sets) because NovoLog®-specific information may differ from general pump manual instructions. Pump or infusion set malfunctions or insulin degradation can lead to a rapid onset of hyperglycemia and ketosis because of the small subcutaneous depot of insulin. This is especially pertinent for rapid-acting insulin analogs that are more rapidly absorbed through skin and have a shorter duration of action. Prompt identification and correction of the cause of hyperglycemia or ketosis is necessary. Interim therapy with subcutaneous injection may be required [*see Dosage and Administration, Warnings and Precautions, How Supplied/Storage and Handling, and Patient Counseling Information*]. NovoLog® is recommended for use in pump systems suitable for insulin infusion as listed below. **Pumps:** MiniMed 500 series and other equivalent pumps. **Reservoirs and infusion sets:** NovoLog® is recommended for use in reservoir and infusion sets that are compatible with insulin and the specific pump. In-vitro studies have shown that pump malfunction, loss of metacresol, and insulin degradation, may occur when NovoLog® is maintained in a pump system for longer than 48 hours. Reservoirs and infusion sets should be changed at least every 48 hours. NovoLog® should not be exposed to temperatures greater than 37°C (98.6°F). **NovoLog® that will be used in a pump should not be mixed with other insulin or with a diluent** [*see Dosage and Administration, Warnings and Precautions and How Supplied/Storage and Handling, Patient Counseling Information*].

ADVERSE REACTIONS: *Clinical Trial Experience:* Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying designs, the adverse reaction rates reported in one clinical trial may not be easily compared to those rates reported in another clinical trial, and may not reflect the rates actually observed in clinical practice. *Hypoglycemia:* Hypoglycemia is the most commonly observed adverse reaction in patients using insulin, including NovoLog® [*see Warnings and Precautions*]. *Insulin initiation and glucose control intensification:* Intensification or rapid improvement in glucose control has been associated with a transitory, reversible ophthalmologic refraction disorder, worsening of diabetic retinopathy, and acute painful peripheral neuropathy. However, long-term glycemic control decreases the risk of diabetic retinopathy and neuropathy. *Lipodystrophy:* Long-term use of insulin, including NovoLog®, can cause lipodystrophy at the site of repeated insulin injections or infusion. Lipodystrophy includes lipohypertrophy (thickening of adipose tissue) and lipoatrophy (thinning of adipose tissue), and may affect insulin absorption. Rotate insulin injection or infusion sites within the same region to reduce the risk of lipodystrophy. *Weight gain:* Weight gain can occur with some insulin therapies, including NovoLog®, and has been attributed to the anabolic effects of insulin and the decrease in glucosuria. *Peripheral Edema:* Insulin may cause sodium retention and edema, particularly if previously poor metabolic control is improved by intensified insulin therapy. *Frequencies of adverse drug reactions:* The frequencies of adverse drug reactions during NovoLog® clinical trials in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus and type 2 diabetes mellitus are listed in the tables below.

Table 1: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in Patients with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (Adverse events with frequency ≥ 5% and occurring more frequently with NovoLog® compared to human regular insulin are listed)

	NovoLog® + NPH N= 596		Human Regular Insulin + NPH N= 286	
Preferred Term	**N**	**(%)**	**N**	**(%)**
Hypoglycemia*	448	75%	205	72%
Headache	70	12%	28	10%
Injury accidental	65	11%	29	10%
Nausea	43	7%	13	5%
Diarrhea	28	5%	9	3%

*Hypoglycemia is defined as an episode of blood glucose concentration <45 mg/dL with or without symptoms. See *Clinical Studies* for the incidence of serious hypoglycemia in the individual clinical trials.

Table 2: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (except for hypoglycemia, adverse events with frequency ≥ 5% and occurring more frequently with NovoLog® compared to human regular insulin are listed)

	NovoLog® + NPH N= 91		Human Regular Insulin + NPH N= 91	
	N	**(%)**	**N**	**(%)**
Hypoglycemia*	25	27%	33	36%
Hyporeflexia	10	11%	6	7%
Onychomycosis	9	10%	5	5%
Sensory disturbance	8	9%	6	7%
Urinary tract infection	7	8%	6	7%
Chest pain	5	5%	3	3%
Headache	5	5%	3	3%
Skin disorder	5	5%	2	2%
Abdominal pain	5	5%	1	1%
Sinusitis	5	5%	1	1%

*Hypoglycemia is defined as an episode of blood glucose concentration <45 mg/dL, with or without symptoms. See *Clinical Studies* for the incidence of serious hypoglycemia in the individual clinical trials.

Postmarketing Data: The following additional adverse reactions have been identified during postapproval use of NovoLog®. Because these adverse reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is generally not possible to reliably estimate their frequency. Medication errors in which other insulins have been accidentally substituted for NovoLog® have been identified during postapproval use [*see Patient Counseling Information*].

OVERDOSAGE: Excess insulin administration may cause hypoglycemia and, particularly when given intravenously, hypokalemia. Mild episodes of hypoglycemia usually can be treated with oral glucose. Adjustments in drug dosage, meal patterns, or exercise, may be needed. More severe episodes with coma, seizure, or neurologic impairment may be treated with intramuscular/subcutaneous glucagon or concentrated intravenous glucose. Sustained carbohydrate intake and observation may be necessary because hypoglycemia may recur after apparent clinical recovery. Hypokalemia must be corrected appropriately.

More detailed information is available on request.

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NovoLog® is a registered trademark of Novo Nordisk A/S.

NovoLog® is covered by US Patent Nos 5,618,913; 5,866,538; and other patents pending.

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