

## **Users under the influence of sex-enhancing medication: prevalence, demographics and sexual features**

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### **Abstract:**

**Background/Aim:** Erectile dysfunction (ED) is considered the prime sexual dysfunction attracting public attention among men all over the world. It ranges from partial decrease in penile rigidity to a complete erectile failure. To overcome this issue, sex-enhancing medications (SEM) have become popular among men. The main objective of this work is to determine the prevalence, demographics and sexual features of sex-enhancing medications users among Egyptians.

**Methods:** A total of one thousand nine hundred and sixteen adult males were included in the present study. This cross-sectional study was conducted between August 2020 and July 2021. Participants were invited to fill a self-structured questionnaire through “Google Forms”. The form included three main section for socio-demographic data; sexual activity and sex-enhancing medication history; and Brief Sexual Functioning Inventory score analysis (BSFI).

**Results:** Our finding showed that 48.4% of the subjects were sex-enhancement drug users. After completing the BSFI score variables, results revealed that there was a highly statistical significant difference for the total BSFI score between sex-enhancement drug users and non-users with (23.4±5.7) and (21.02±4.5) respectively with <0.001. As regarding to the drugs used, the majority (67.9%) were using Sildenafil.

**Strengths and Limitations:** In the Egyptian society, talking about sex problems concerns most males and they get ashamed when talking about it. The sex-enhancement drugs are being circulated in Egypt in a non-medical way.

**Conclusion:** It can be concluded that urban residency, marriage, high education, job, low-to-middle socioeconomic status, smoking, drinking alcohol, and having chronic hypertension and/or diabetes mellitus were identified as features of sex-enhancing pharmaceutical users, with impairment of sexual function among them.