

Response to Editorial Comment: “Profiles of Cyberpornography Use and Sexual Well-Being in Adults”



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We thank the author of the editorial comment for the thoughtful remarks on our study. Research on the effects of pornography is still in its infancy. Despite strong social pressure for rapid closure, we should be cautious before concluding that pornography use is universally harmful or beneficial.¹ Our contribution shows that subgroups of pornography users report differential sexual outcomes. Most of our sample was composed of recreational users reporting positive sexual outcomes, including higher sexual satisfaction. High-frequency compulsive use was restricted to 12% of our sample, and another 13% reported low use but significant distress and negative sexual outcomes that cannot be understood within an addiction model.²

An important step to determine treatment priorities for specific subgroups is to move toward empirical typologies of pornography users. To this end, one of the foremost priorities is to replicate our findings in large population-based samples. Further classification analyses also should consider preferences in the content of pornography viewed vs preferred sexual behaviors with a partner, underlying motivations, own- and partner pornography acceptance, and level of interest in sex. Other positive and negative outcomes of specific subgroups, such as intimacy difficulties, sexual self-esteem, sexual arousal or desire with a partner, and perceptions of masculinity and femininity, should be examined. Dyadic research also will help broaden our understanding of the interpersonal context of use.³ For example, the high level of distress observed in the non-compulsive group might be associated with solitary use or hidden from a partner. Further, longitudinal studies should determine how these subgroups evolve over time. In all cases, conducting high-quality scientific studies on this “new” phenomenon is essential.

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Category 1

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(b) Acquisition of Data

Not applicable

(c) Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Not applicable

Category 2

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