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I S ─ 4 Attitude of Korean women toward sex after menopause

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Sexuality is a concern of quality of life. We place a high value on fulfilling a sexual satisfaction in our youth. However, as we age, we tend to value this less. This paper reviewed the changes in Korean women's sexual attitude as they grew older. The survey was completed on 554 women after menopause in Pusan, Korea in 1993. The questions were asked and the responses were recorded anonymously to protect the confidentiality of those who participated in the study. The mean age for this group was 58.2 years of age. 72.8% of the women were married. The followings are the points we would like to highlight: 1) Romantic love is extending beyond the reproductive years. Over 40% of the women replied that they wanted romantic love for the rest of their lives, no matter if they were married or widowed. This was the same for the group of women with an increase in libido after menopause; 2) Remarriage had not been permitted in women in traditional Korean society. However, the younger they were, widowed women wanted strongly to remarry; more so than their counter-parts; 3) Sexual dysfunction was a complaint in 38.4% of the women. However, 61.6% surveyed enjoyed sex always. Similarly, dyspareunia was marked in 60% of the group. On the other hand, 40% of them never experienced dyspareunia. In conclusion, a number of factors appear to influence sexual behavior in later life. Korean society is changing in terms of ideology from a "women-suppressed" to a "womenliberating" society. Women's sexual expression of themselves is changing as it is no longer viewed as shameful in Korea. It should be recognized as a common source of psychosomatic symptomatology, and as a social identification of gender and roles in life.