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# Evaluation of the sexual behaviour of paramedical students

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## Objective

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the sexual behaviour of paramedical students and how they manage their protection against sexually transmitted infections through the use of condoms.

## Methodology and research tools:

This was a prospective, cross-sectional, quantitative and descriptive study answered in the higher institute of nursing sciences and the Higher school of health sciences and techniques of Tunis over a period of 1 month (March 2021). We targeted 123 students and collected the data through an online self-questionnaire.

## Results

This study concerned a population composed of 72% women and 28% men aged from 19 to 32 years old. (median age was 21 years old)

## Results

-23% were in the first year, 32% in the second year and 45% were in the 3rd year.

-7% (9 students) already had sex and the median age of their first sexual intercourse was 18, With an average of 1.33 partners during the last 12 months.

-Only 2 of them had used a condom during their first sexual intercourse with a new partner.

-43% had justified the non use of condom with decreased feeling of pleasure, 29% get embarrassed to purchase it, 14% had some difficulties to use it and 14% did not because they simply wanted to get pregnant.

-75% had the intention to use a condom during their first sexual intercourse while 25% did not.

## Discussion

We compared our results to a Swiss study which revealed that 5% of Swiss students had at least 2 sexual partners the last 12 months and less than 50% of them have used condoms in their last sexual intercourse.<sup>(1)</sup> The use of condoms in Central Europe and Eastern Europe students was low too. <sup>(2)</sup> The reasons behind that were the trust they had in their partners and the lack of sensations. <sup>(3)</sup> Another Burkinabe study showed that the main reasons were: the lack of sensations (39%), the partner's refusal (23%), the trust in the partner (18%), difficulties to use the condom (14%) and the forgetting (14%). <sup>(4)</sup>

## Conclusion

This study shows that paramedical students are not taking the necessary measures to avoid sexually transmitted infections for multiple reasons, among them, lack of knowledge might be the main reason.

## References

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