

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



Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Sarah Blais-Lecours, BA,<sup>2</sup> Chloé Labadie, BA,<sup>2</sup> Sophie Bergeron, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Stéphane Sabourin, PhD,<sup>2</sup> and Natacha Godbout, PhD<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.

**Corresponding Author:** Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel, PhD, Département de psychologie, Université de Montréal, C.P.

Received November 29, 2016. Accepted November 30, 2016.

<sup>1</sup>Département de psychologie, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada;

<sup>2</sup>École de psychologie, Université Laval, Québec, QC, Canada;

<sup>3</sup>Département de sexologie, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada

Copyright © 2016, International Society for Sexual Medicine. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsxm.2016.11.320>

J Sex Med 2017;14:87

6128, Succursale Centre-Ville, Montréal, QC H3C 3J7, Canada; E-mail: [marie-pier.vaillancourt.morel@umontreal.ca](mailto:marie-pier.vaillancourt.morel@umontreal.ca)

*Conflicts of Interest:* None.

*Funding:* None.

### STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

#### Category 1

##### (a) Conception and Design

Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel; Sarah Blais-Lecours; Chloé Labadie; Sophie Bergeron; Stéphane Sabourin; Natacha Godbout

##### (b) Acquisition of Data

Not applicable

##### (c) Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Not applicable

#### Category 2

##### (a) Drafting the Article

Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel; Sarah Blais-Lecours; Chloé Labadie; Sophie Bergeron; Stéphane Sabourin; Natacha Godbout

##### (b) Revising It for Intellectual Content

Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel; Sarah Blais-Lecours; Chloé Labadie; Sophie Bergeron; Stéphane Sabourin; Natacha Godbout

#### Category 3

##### (a) Final Approval of the Completed Article

Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel; Sarah Blais-Lecours; Chloé Labadie; Sophie Bergeron; Stéphane Sabourin; Natacha Godbout

### REFERENCES

- Hald GM, Seaman C, Linz D. Sexuality and pornography. In: Tolman DL, Diamond LM, Bauermeister JA, et al., eds. *APA handbook of sexuality and psychology, vol. 2: contextual approaches APA handbooks in psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 2014. p. 3-35.
- Ley D, Prause N, Finn P. The emperor has no clothes: a review of the ‘pornography addiction’ model. *Curr Sex Health Rep* 2014;6:94-105.
- Campbell L, Kohut T. The use and effects of pornography in romantic relationships. *Curr Opin Psychol* 2017;13:6-10.