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**Women's Perspectives of Sexual Function after Menopause:  
A Grounded Theory Study**

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It is well established that sexual functioning changes with advancing age. Women are particularly impacted by these changes, especially after menopause. In one study of mid-life women, a staggering 98% expressed concerns related to their sexual health. Despite this, little is known regarding how women experience sexual functioning post-menopause. Given this knowledge gap, the purpose of this grounded theory study is to explore the process of sexual functioning among post-menopausal women. The outcome of a grounded theory study is to generate a theoretical explanation grounded in the women participants' perspectives. Findings suggest that how a woman experiences both menopause and sexual functioning post-menopause, is influenced by her mother's experience. The need to redefine one's feminine identity after the cessation of menstruation is another emerging theme. Disconnection between the women and their partners, the impact of non-traditional relationships and the lack of communication regarding sexuality with health care providers are additional areas requiring further exploration. Given the predominance of women in an increasingly aging population, there is a need for research which assists clinicians in better understanding and addressing complex issues related to sexual health in post-menopausal women. Findings from this study, and implications for nurse-practitioners in women's health will be discussed.

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