Excessive Internet Use for Sexual Purposes: a Case Study

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SUMMARY: The excessive use of the internet for sexual purposes may represent a person’s excessive sexual behaviour on the internet which causes them work-related, social, and personal problems. There is currently no consensus regarding the conceptualisation and diagnosis of excessive internet use for sexual purposes. This issue is generally understood as coming under two competing theoretical frameworks – (1) internet or sex addiction and (2) hypersexuality – used to describe this problematic behaviour. The present case report concerning a young man who made excessive use of the internet for sexual purposes aims at describing the dynamics of the onset, course, and symptoms of this problematic behaviour. The study suggests that he fulfilled all the criteria for behavioural addiction and that the specific characteristics of the internet can lower the threshold for the development of this pathological behaviour.

KEY WORDS: INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY – INTERNET SEX ADDICTION – INTERNET ADDICTION – SEX ADDICTION – CYBERSEX – ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION