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Cyberporn use and Rape Myths Acceptance: Are we dealing with risky associations?

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The literature reported links between pornography and Rape Myths Acceptance (RMA). The most exposed participants to pornography would be desensitized by its content and minimize rape and violence against women. Studies associating cyberporn use and RMA remain scarce. Few studies have linked compulsive cyberporn use to RMA, or to attraction to particular pornographic images, or to moral incongruence related to cyberporn use. This study aimed to explore links between RMA and compulsive cyberporn including arousing pornographic styles and pornography moral perception (moral incongruence) in a cyberporn users sample. The sample comprised 1584 participants (1000 men; 557 women; 27 non-binary). Participants completed the Compulsive Internet Use Scale adapted to cyberporn use, Acceptance of Modern Myths about Sexual Aggression scale, and answered questions about their amount and frequency of use, preferences, and moral perception of pornography. We conducted Bravais-Pearson and Chi-Square correlations, k-means non-hierarchical clustering, and Student's t-test. We identified two types of cyberporn user, "low-risk" and "high-risk". Compared to the low-risk group, the high-risk group had higher rape myth acceptance scores, were more aroused by scenes depicting domination, humiliation, submission, and young people, had higher compulsive cyberporn use scores, spent more time and had more frequent use of cyberporn. Analysis showed that men in the high-risk group had a stronger negative moral perception of pornography than men in the low-risk group. We also found that some pornographic styles had stronger associations with compulsive cyberporn use and RMA. The present study provides current data on cyberporn use and its association with RMA. Further studies should explore variables mediating these relationships.

Keywords: Cyberporn, Compulsive cyberporn, Rape myths acceptance