This topic is dealt with in full detail in a separate article, but it is important to note in the present context, that sexual function relies upon a delicate interplay between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems and also with some higher input (although the efficacy of the latter may diminish with age).

This is not only of relevance in understanding that arachnoiditis in the lumbar regions, and in particular, any involvement of the cauda equina, can cause sexual dysfunction, but also some of the medication used to treat bladder dysfunction and indeed neuropathic pain, will also impact on this aspect of life. See below for further details.