Female Sexual Health : Updates for Primary Care

OAAPN Statewide 2023





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OBJECTIVES 2

REVIEW OF 2 COMMON DISORDERS 30

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SUMMARY 5

agenda

introduction

- Develop skills to improve sexual history assessments
- Discuss A-T-A and PLISSIT model
- Describe the steps in a sexual health female exam
- Identify office screening tools for sexual health
- Describe the stages of female sexual response
- Identify 2 common sexual health disorders and their management / treatment plans.



"Sexual health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. " (W.H.O. Definition)

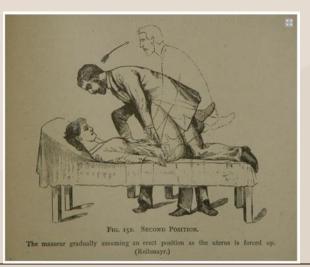
* It requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence

A historical perspective











SEXUAL HEALTH TOPICS

- Sexual Health Hx, PE, Screening Tools ✤ Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) Neuroproliferative Disorders (pain disorders) Sexual Identity / Transitions Lubricants, Moisturizers, & Devices Menopausal Sexual Health (GSM) Vulvar Lesions/Dermatoses Hypertonus Pelvic Floor Disorders Orgasm Disorders
 - Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder (PGAD)

Why do we care about sexual health..?



OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS OF SEX...

A May improve sleep – female orgasm surges prolactin

- Decreases certain pain female orgasm can block pain signals, increases endorphins, vaginal stimulations ease chronic back & leg pain.
- ✤ Genital self stim lessens menstrual cramps, HA, & arthritis
- Reduces stress & anxiety consistency maximizes benefits. Touching, hugging, intimacy elevate serotonin & endorphins

When should we screen for sexual health concerns ...?

Written intake forms	Patients may share more easily about intimate concerns with written questions.
GYN ROS	Normalizes the questions & discussions. Staff may need training
Before / after sur procedures	gery or LEEP, hysterectomy, back/ spine surgeries
Exam for Disability	Can significantly impact sexual desire and pain.

* Life events such as puberty, postpartum, menopause !

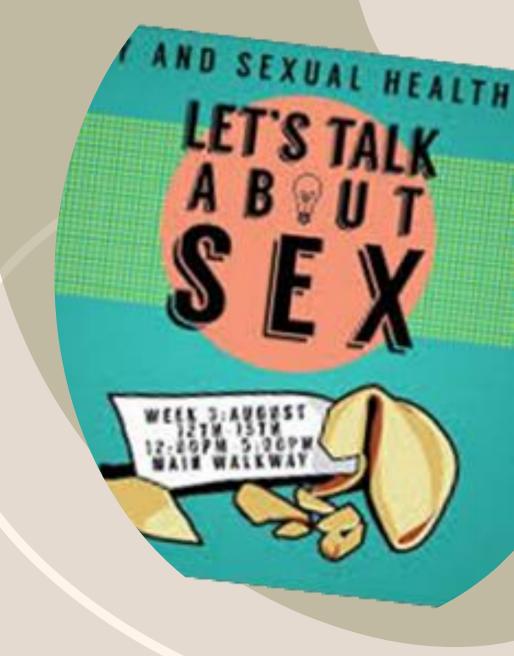
A difficult topic for some...

Screen for Sexual Assault / Abuse History

Religion

Privacy

- Family of Origin (FOO)
- Cultural Background
- Lack of information / folklore
- Perception of disinterest from provider



Sexual Health Interview ...

Normalize the sexuality and ask open-ended questions : "I usually ask everyone..."

✤ASK-TELL-ASK

✤PLISSIT



PLISSIT Model

Permission

to talk about sexual issues, reassurance and empathy

Limited Information

i.e. education about genital anatomy or resources

Specific Suggestions

e.g., use of lubricants, altering position, sexual aides / " toys"

✤ Intensive Therapy

e.g., referral for psychotherapy/sex therapy



PLISSIT MODEL – TRY IT !

Permission – open ended questions "I usually ask some questions about sexual health. Any concerns you want to discuss today?"

Limited Information / Specific Suggestions
Don't give more than THREE pieces of information

**Remember to balance PERCEIVED need vs YOUR concern for treatment (i.e. sexual retirement) !

Intensive Therapy – REFERRALS (PFT, CBT, Therapist)

HOW TO ASK

✤" I ask all of my patients the next few questions…"

✤ " Are you having any sexual health concerns ?"

- * " A lot of women in (situation) have sexual difficulties or problems...."
- * "Any sexual health problems you want to talk about today ?"



Approach to treating female sexual health concerns

Complete Evaluation and Diagnosis : multifactorial etiology, and therefore a complex assessment

Assess the woman's goals (? discordant desire, DV)

Treat associated conditions (meds, depression, body image, alcoholism)

Use a TEAM approach (PT, Sex Therapy, ?partners dx)

Make a treatment plan (pharm, non-pharm methods)

Hormone / Medication therapy



Research-based tools -legitimize it!

Tools

✤Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI)

- Profile of Female Sexual Function Index (PFSF-B)
- Female Sexual Distress Scale (revised) FSDS
- ✤Magill Genital Pain Score
- Decreased Sexual Desire Screen (DSDS)

- Desire, Arousal, Lubr, Orgasm, Satisfaction, Pain
 PMP Desire Scale
- ✤- Distress/ QOL

Assessment Area

- ✤- Genital Pain (NPD)
- ✤- Brief Dx Tool for HSDD

Female Sexual Function Index - FSFI

Dr Rosen, Prof of Psychiatry, RWJ Med

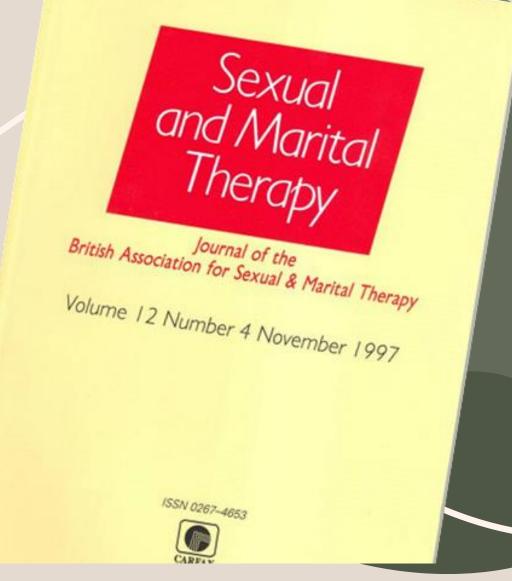
Psychometric evaluation

Sensitive, reliable

4-week ROS

✤Assesses 6 "Domains"

Desire, Arousal, Lubrication, Orgasm, Satisfaction, Pain



Sexual Health Physical Exam.

Routine PE with special attention to :

Overall appearance Skin (bruising, marks, defensive injuries, bondage) Thyroid **Breast tissue / Nipple tissue** Spine External genitalia (Qutipby test, thor is licensed under CC BY-SA **Quantitative Sensory Test**) Pelvic - refer for detailed exam / testing if needed Vulvoscopy



Sexual Health History...outside the usual questionnaire

- RECORDED BY THE PATIENT, IN THEIR WORDS
- Current Sexual HEALTH should be assessed

○ Basic history –

COC usage / Meds (i.e. tamoxifen, OTC herbs) Age of sexual debut Current SQOL

Hx birth gender, sexual identity, sexual activity Exercise (esp. bike rider), nutrition, Rx / OTC Prior treatment for sexual dysfunction Disabilities / Back Injury Childbirth – Trauma, Pudendal block, Lactation

GYN Surgeries : LEEP , Hyst, Myomectomy, Rejuv

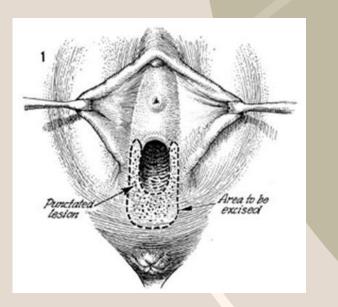


Knowing the anatomy ...

Outside of Hart's Line = VULVA

Within Hart's Line and the Hymen
 VESTIBULE

Between the Hymen and the cervix = VAGINA

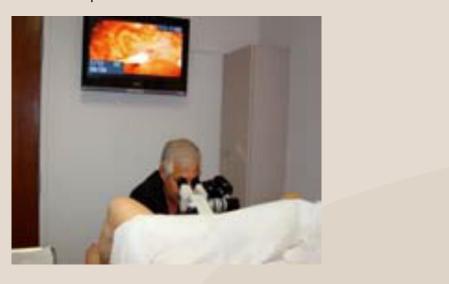




Vulvoscopy ...

Magnified assessment of the genital region using a vulvoscope

Ideally the patient can view the genital anatomy simultaneously with the health care provider

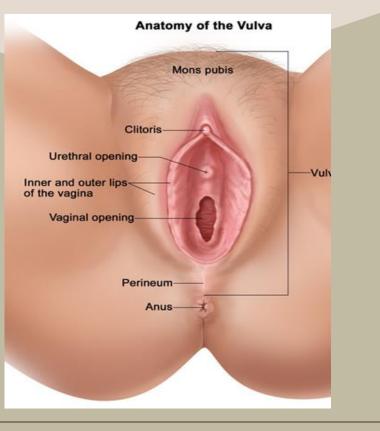




Q-tip test

PROPRIOCEPTION ON THE VULVA IS POOR – PLEASE DON'T POINT OR USE YOUR FINGER





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Q tip test performance

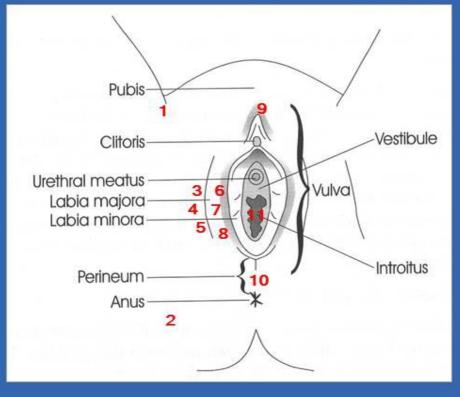
Vulvodynia Assessment Step 2: Cotton-Swab Examination of the Vulva

Using a cotton swab, test for allodynia, hypo- and hyperalgesia by applying gentle pressure to the following areas:

- 1-2 inner thigh
- 3-5 labia majora
- 6-8 interlabial sulcus
- 9 clitoris, clitoral hood
- 10 perineum
- 11 sites within vestibule (next slide)

For each site, the patient:

- Rates the pain severity (VAS score)
- Describes the pain character (burning, raw, etc.)



HSDD – Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder



"Sometimes sex is just one more thing on my to-do list. That's why I call it a chore-gasm."

FEMALE SEXUAL RESPONSE : STAGES OR CYCLIC ?

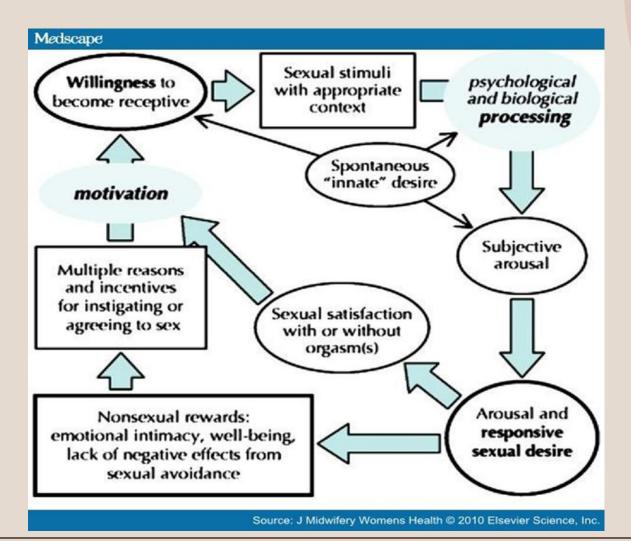
Desire : "libido" Desire to have sexual activity, including thoughts, <u>images</u>, & wishes. Retirement ?

Arousal : ("excitement") Subj. sense of sexual pleasure accompanied by **physical changes** Genital vasocongestion, "tenting, " HR, BP, Resp. 1

<u>Orgasm</u> : "peak", release sexual tension with rhythmic contractions of perineal muscles and reproductive organs

Resolution : Muscle relaxation, sense of general well-being following sexual activity

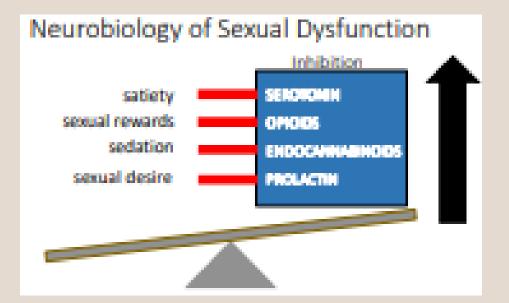
Female sexual response - Complex !

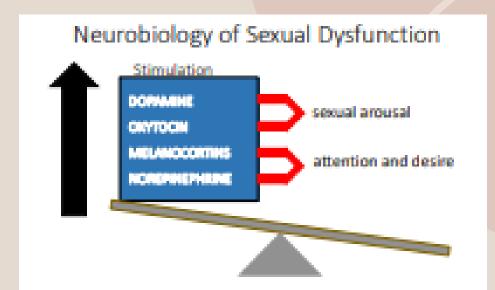


HSDD defined (DSM-IV)

- A persistent or recurrent absence of sexual fantasies and desire for sexual activity.
- Must be accompanied by marked personal distress or interpersonal difficulties.
- Symptoms are not better explained by another Axis I diagnosis
- Symptoms NOT d/t the direct physiologic effects of a drug or other medical condition.
- Lifelong vs Acquired (ISSWSH requires 6-month duration)
- Generalized vs Situational

Neurobiology of sexual desire



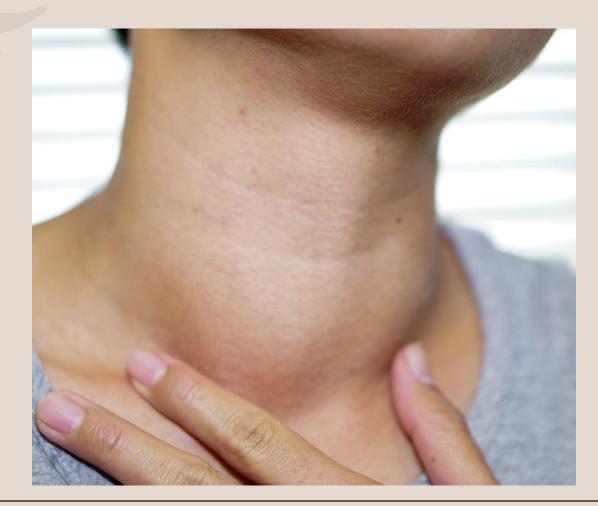


HSDD: Differential Diagnosis

* ACOG PB # 213, 2019

Anxiety / Depression Diabetes Genital mutilation Hx sexual abuse HTN Hysterectomy / LEEP Intimate Partner Violence Medications (esp SSRI, histamine blockers, AND COCs !!!!) Neg sexual attitudes Neurological diseases Postpartum (esp lactation/OB trauma Premature Ovarian Failure (POF) Cancer (esp. GYN or Breast) Stress / Insomnia Stress Urinary Incontinence Substance use disorder

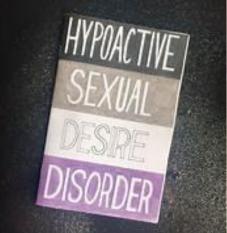
HSDD - The Exam



- ➢ Body composition
- \succ Estrogen status breasts, vagina, skin tone
- ≻ Thyroid size, goiter, mass
- Genital exam escutcheon, tone, turgor of vagina, clitoral hood/glans
- \succ Consider Laboratory Exam :
 - ≻TSH mIU/L
 - Estradiol pg/ml
 - ➢ Progesterone ng/ ml
 - ➢ Testosterone (total) ng/ml
 - ≻SHBG nmol/dl
 - Vit D (deficiency / insufficiency
 *** FSDS , IPV, GAD screen, PHQ-9

HSDD – Management

- ✤Counseling CBT, Couples Tx, ETOH, sleep therapy
- Reframing " sexual receptiveness " or initiation
- Improved body image exercise, nutrition, yoga



Communication – assess for resentment, power issues, relationship issues, refer PRN.

Tx underlying medical condition (pt. and partner)
If PMP, REVIEW CHANGES in female sexual response

*** Arousal may precede Desire *** *** Agree on goals ! ***

HSDD: Pharmaceutical approach



Estrogen – oral therapy NOT effective (unless vasomotor symptoms are the culprit !)

Estrogen – low dose vaginal cream ? ? Prasterone suppository. Works!

Bupropion – 150-300 mg SR / day Improved sexual satisfaction (SSE), arousal, AND orgasm scores.

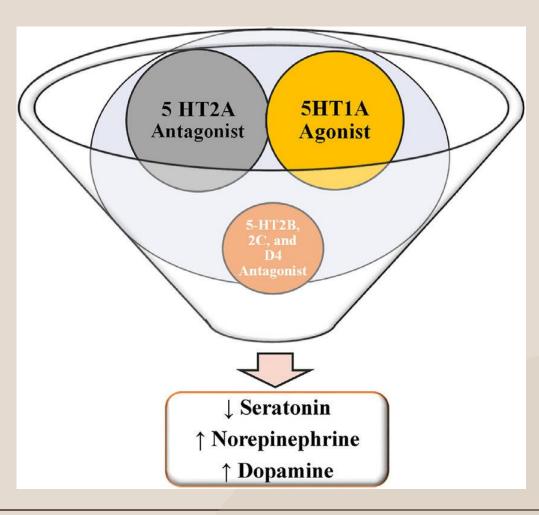
> Tibolone – synthetic steroid (E2 / Prog Test) For PMP women, not available in US, is available in Europe.

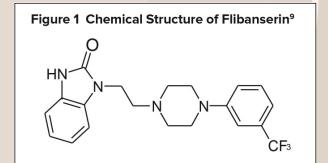
HSDD – PREMENOPAUSE TX

- Flibanserin -" Addyi " FDA approved 8-2015(2denials)
- Improves desire and Sexually Satisfying Events (SSE)
- 100 mg po q day effect after 4 weeks
- D/C rate from Adverse Events (AE) = 8-13 %
- ✤ BP, syncope, dizziness, nausea, fatigue
- Baseline 2-3 SSE/mo increased by 0.4-1 additional SSE
- ✤Alcohol precautions
- ✦Addyi REMS program GONE !!!!



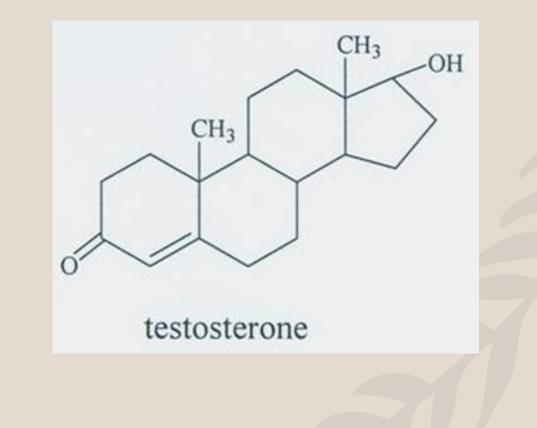
Flibanserin





WHAT ABOUT TESTOSTERONE?

- PMP women Improves sexual function in DAO. Requires careful counseling !
- Cream, gel or pellets
- Transdermal appears to be best but evidence mixed. NOT FDA approved for this indication.
- Supplement to upper limit of normal range
- Can trial for up to 6 months (NAMS/Endo Soc)
- \clubsuit Systemic DHEA not effective
- Insufficient evidence for use in premenopausal women



Prasterone

Newer option ! May impact all phases DAO and lubrication!

✤ 6.5 mg PV at HS : Estrogen/Androgen

Metabolites

◆Indication – Tx of MOD to SEV Dyspareunia Menop.

✤ CI – DUB and Breast Cancer.

12 week controlled trials : only AE > 2% abnormal vaginal discharge
52 week trial – only AE >2% - abnl pap and vaginal discharge
ZERO \$ first month tx, then \$25./mo with Co-pay card

 \ast^{**} Intrarosa has not been studied in women in breast cancer

http://www.intrarosahcp.com/img/intrarosa-steroidogenesis-hero.png



PDE-5 for HSDD?



>PDE-5 Inhibitors "Viagra"

ACOG "Should not be used to treat HSDD-F outside of clinical trials." (2019)

Inconsistent results:

- ▶N=800 women. 50-100 mg X 12 weeks,
- No improvement in Desire, but did improve Arousal
 ? also helpful for pts with DM, MS, spinal cord injury
 Treating the male partner may increase female desire

Bremelanotide - injectable

- For generalized, acquired PREmenopausal women with HSDD
- Patients who have HSDD regardless of the situation, partner, or type of sexual activity.
- 1.75 mg / 0.3 ml SQ Pre-filled injectable pens
- ✤45 min prior to desired activity, 1 per 24 hours, 8x per month
- SE : Temp rise in BP, darkening of skin, nausea, flushing
- CI : Uncontrolled HTN, Known Cardiovascular Disease
- Cautions : Heart, liver, renal disease/impairments, pregnancy

Vyleesi Itemelanoide igection

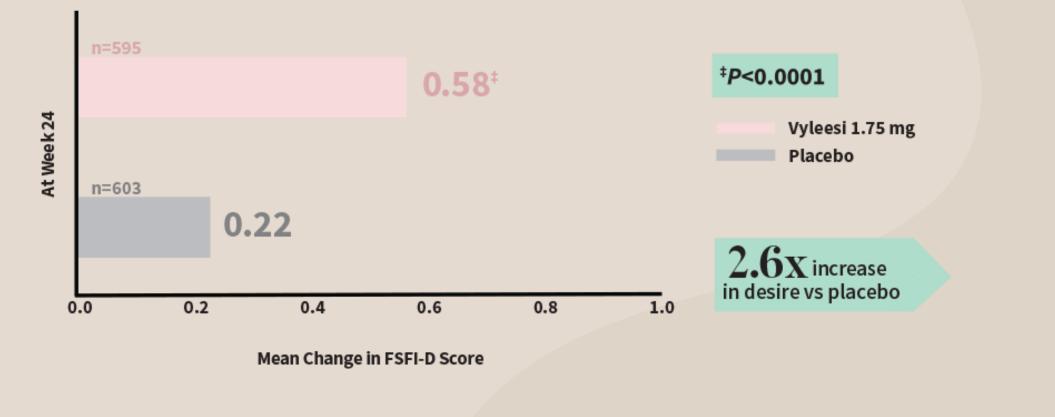
Bremelanotide side effects

MOST COMMON ADVERSE REACTIONS OCCURRING IN ≥4% OF PATIENTS TREATED WITH VYLEESI IN RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND CONTROLLED TRIALS¹

	Vyleesi (n=627) %	Placebo (n=620) %
Nausea	40.0	1.3
Flushing	20.3	0.3
Injection site reactions*	13.2	8.4
Headache	11.3	1.9
Vomiting	4.8	0.2

Bremelanotide-efficacy

IMPROVEMENTS IN DESIRE: CHANGE IN FSFI-D MEAN SCORES FROM BASELINE TO END OF STUDY (INTEGRATED STUDY DATA[†])³



HSDD – initial arousal techniques

Images – books, visual images

- ✤ " Reframing "
- Devices vibrators, Fiera cleaning them



Topical vasodilators - "O" Pure Romance





How to find a Sexual Health Counselor or Pelvic Floor PT :

Construction of density effective consider and thingasts	REPASSINGROT	Section on Women's Health Members	Patients
emerican association of sexuality educators counselors and therapists		About Us Join Us Join Us PT Locator Enter your Search Criteria Sure Events Education Practice Try Code Vened To Search within selected miles	Select one or more specialities to search using the control and shift kyre while clicking on the speciality Bower Decropy Breast Decropy Breast Decropy Constration
		INTERNATIONAL International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, Inc.	

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ET YOUR VOICE BE HEAD

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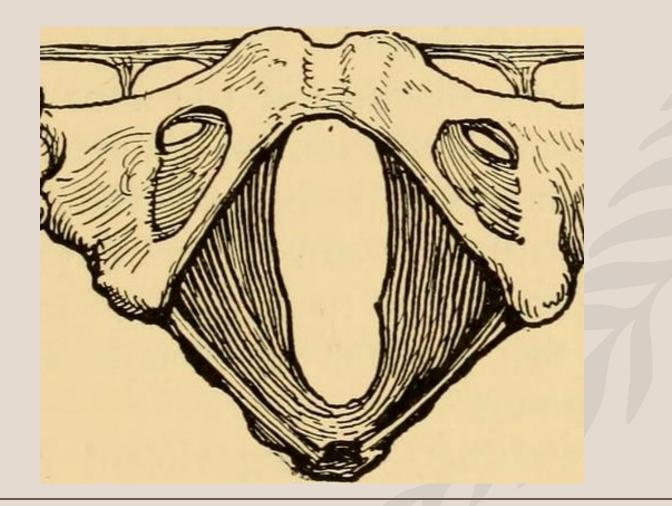
SUBMIT NOW

St. Lucia service trip?...lan't that a

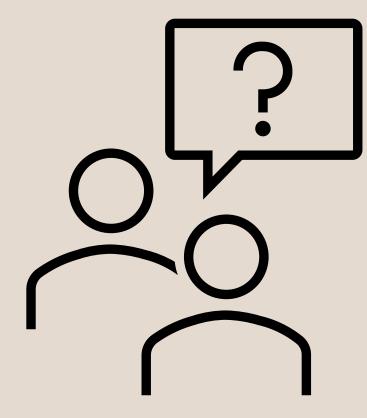
SEARCH

Female Sexual Pain – Neuroproliferative Disorders

- Dyspareunia is recurrent or persistent pain with sexual activity that causes marked distress or interpersonal conflict (AAFP definition) NOT VULVODYNIA
- It affects 10% to 20% of U.S. women (>50% of menopausal women)
- Keep this in mind for all patients who have a vagina, whether or not they identify as female
- Significantly impacts an individual's life!
- New sexual health elective in the residency with a lot of demand



Sexual pain - forming the differential



Based on location of pain ✤Based on age Acute? Chronic? Situational? Sexual Health History Sexual Health Exam Sexual Health laboratory exam

Risk factors for sexual pain ...

- ✤Back or hip injury
- Physical trauma (ie MVA, bike riders- vulvodynia)
- Reconstructive surgery for incontinence or prolapse
- Radiation or Chemotherapy
- Childbirth (particularly macrosomia, epis, lacerations
- ✤Lactation

Medications (ESP oral contraceptives) Assess OTCs !
 Marital Discord (desire

- discrepancy, abuse)
- Menopause
- Endometriosis
- ♦ IBS



Testosterone therapy for transgender care

Differential Diagnosis

♦STI – esp HPV / PID

- Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause (GSM)
- Genital lesions / ulcers / trauma
- Crohn's / Bechet Syndrome
- Lichen Sclerosis
- Thyroid Dysfunction
- ✤History of sexual trauma/abuse

Dehydration Hypoestrogenemia Interstitial Cystitis *****IBS Endometriosis (esp. deep dyspareunia) ✤Ovarian cysts

Vulvar Crohn's ... an overlooked DDx



Sexual pain exam techniques









Hormonal treatment of external sexual pain

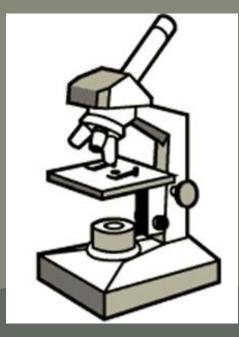
Targeted hormone therapy

- ✤Glans Clitoris Testosterone
- ✤ Labia Minora Estradiol
- Minor Vestibular Glands Testosterone & Estradiol
- ✤Vagina Estradiol
- Peri-urethral tissue Testosterone

Sexual pain - laboratory examination

✤Vaginal pH, microscopy, vaginitis screening ♦STI screening ✤Assess genital ulcers – tissue biopsy if appropriate DON'T BX HALOs

Urinalysis, urine culture



TSH
Transvaginal ultrasound
Imaging to assess spine
Vulvoscopy
Hormone levels

Neuroproliferative treatment

Dryness / GSM – Prasterone , Dilators, E2 cream, hormone replacement therapy, valium / lidocaine / gabapentin cream

✤ Vaginal Radiofrequency / CO2 Laser

External genital pain – Gabapentin, topical or oral route, external E2 cream, compounded therapies, dilators.



Pelvic Floor PT – CRITICAL component !

Estradiol inserts for mod – severe dyspareunia due in menopause

- Low dose estrogen vaginal insert4 mcg/10mcg supp.
- ♦Q HS X 14 days
- $2-3 \times$ / week maint
- ✤CI : Same as PO E2
- DUB,CVD,Ca, Clots,
- Liver, Preg, Stroke

- 12 week to Tx, 2 for improvement
- Indication Mod to Sev VVA due to Menopause
- ♦\$ 35.00 with card
- ♣AE >3% in trials HA



OTC GSM treatment options

Bonafide

Order Pad

Directions for patient ordering, designed to improve compliance and results.

Clairvee	Symptom recurrence after treating BV or yeast*	 Take 1 capsule da consecutive days with or without fo Take monthly for 	each month, bod	3 Month Plan	Monthly Plan
Relizen	Menopausal hot flashes	Take 2 tablets, once per day, with or without food Take for at least 3 months and beyond for best results		3 Month Plan	Monthly Plan
Revarce.	Vaginal dryness	Use 1 insert every 2-3 days at bedtime for continued relief Store in a cool place away from light and heat			
Ristela [.]	Physical arousal and orgasm	Take 2 tablets, once per day, with or without food Take for at least 2 months and beyond for best results		Monthly Plan	
Serenol	Mood swings and irritability	Take 2 tablets, once per day, with or without food Take for at least 2 months and beyond for best results Source per day, Plan Plan Plan Plan			
Ordering	is easy:	400	Use this code your first	e for savings subscriptior	
1. Open the c your phone QR code.	amera on e and scan this		HCPSAVE257		
 Select the products your healthcare provider recommended 		way	Other ways to order: ① patient.hellobonafide.com ① 1-833-266-2343		
	*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any diseases.				

Vaginal "rejuvenation"



presentation title

Radiofrequency vs Ablative

Radiofrequency vs Ablative

Can be done in office

May improve appearance, tone, lubrication, sensitivity, stress urinary incontinence and dyspareunia - GSM



BEFORE



AFTER

ABC to treat refractory NP pain

o N=38 female pts with refractory Provoked Vulvodynia

- o Treated with 2% amitriptyline + 2% baclofen for 33 weeks
- o Responders = any improvement over 30%
- 29% little improvement
- 18% moderate improvement
- 53% significant improvement

Overall – 71% reported decreased pain and increased lubrication

Nyirjesy, Paul et. al (2009) Topical amitriptyline-baclofen cream for the treatment of provoked vulvodynia. Journal for the Treatment of Lower Genital Tract Diseases. Vol 13 Issue 4

Compounded options for sexual pain

Formula # 44B: E2, DHEA, Vit E (GSM, Dryness, Vestibulitis)

o Formula# 49B : Diclofenac, Lidocaine
 (Post-injury, post-procedure)
 * Can add diazepam

o Formula # 45B : Amitryp, Baclofen, Estriol, Gabapentin, Lido, Prilocaine
(NPD, Vulvodynia, vaginismus)

o Formula # 47 : Boric acid suppository(Recurrent vaginitis)

ST NAME	LAST NAME.	DATE OF BIRTH	
MARY PHONE #. D.CELL DHOME DWORK			
	BECONDARY PHONE & DIGILL DHOME DWORK	LAST 4 DIGITS OF SUM	
Detta	OT CELET SA	ALLENGIES.	
x Medication Order: Pharmaciat	Please Compound: Note: you may delete / substit	tute / add any additional medications for all form	
EMALE BHRT FORMULAS:			
	iel, E2: Estrudiel (Amount is per 1 gram of BHRT crea		
Bi-Est (50/50 Estrial/Estradial)	DHEA	Testosterone	
0.5mg 0.25mg 0.852 Other	Child Ching Dang Dang Other	Dense	
Bi-Est (80/20 Estriel/Estradiel)	Progesterone	Compound	
0.75mg (Ling C), 0.15mg (2) 2.5mg (Jng C) 1.25mg (Jng C), 0.25mg (2) Other			
	OR UPPER/INNER ARM DAILY. SKIP SUNDAY		
#448 Formula Exhibit 0.05% + OHEA 0.5% + Vitumin E 1%	#45B Formula Amhtiphyline 2% + Backelan 2% + Estilul 0.05%	BHRT Capsule	
	+ Galagentin 6% + Tehacaine 4%	Ditions Ditions	
QTV: 48pm 138pm Refit SIG: Apply 3-2pm vaginally daily for 7-14 days.	QT% 180gm Other Ref21	QTVCopsulars Battlo	
than 2-3 times per weak	SIG: Apply 3-2pm segmently BID-TID	SIG: Take 1 capsule PO QHS	
#49 Formula	164 Formula	#431 Formula	
Diazepam BM Suppository	Promethacine 5%	DHEA 0.5% + Aminophyline 3% + Arginine 65 Ergoloid 0.05% + Pentoxitylline 5%	
Dese: Genet concernation 10-Hong	GT1 000m 0100m Refit	974 040pm 0120pm Ruffs	
SIG. Insert 1 suppository regimely QHS.	(15 day Tugate) (30 day Tugate) SIG. Apply 1gm q4-6h pm nausaa/vomitting	(15 day Suppl) (30 day Tuppi) SIG: Apply 7-2gm vaginally 30 min bafura	
		activity as needed for 30 days	
OPTIONAL) ADDITIONAL NOTES		activity as needed for 30 days	
Additional Formulas/	Questions? Please contact the Pharmac	ist at (877) 610-6633.	
	Contact Informa		
Additional Formulas/ Prescriber Information:	Questions? Please contact the Pharmac Contact Informa		

Sexual Pain adjunctive therapy



- Modify sexual technique foreplay, etc.
- Change sexual positions
- ✤Vaginal awareness Kegel's
- ✤Yoga 5 minutes
- ✤Good communication with partner

Accupuncture /Accupressure

Lubricants vs Moisturizers!

Lubricants :

Temporarily replace moisture

- ✤Can be water, silicone, or oil based
- Decrease friction, not absorbed
- SLIQUID organic, oil based
- WET water based, no paraben, no odor, no color, viscous, Kosher
- SYLK water based. Kiwi vine extract, no scent, no paraben, no animal prod, FDA cleared, same pH as vagina, forms a film like-moisture so lasts longer, contains grapeseed extract.

GOOD CLEAN LOVE – "Almost Naked"KY

✤PRESEED / JUST LIKE ME / ASTROGLIDE

✤<u>Moisturizers</u>:

Last up to 3-4 daysTypically silicone based

✤ REPLENS – contains bioadhesive, 3 days

- LUVENA "pre-biotic", no paraben, chlorhex, glycerin, or sulfate.
- ♦ GOOD CLEAN LOVE "Restore" PETA approved, organic
- KY Liquibeads

♦ UBERLUBE

*** COUNSEL PTS TO NOT USE ESTROGEN CREAMS AS A LUBRICANT! IT TRANSFERS TO PARTNER'S SKIN

THE PIPELINE!







CLINICAL TRIALS

Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder Pipeline

60 pages 2019

thank you!

Michelle Zamudio Cincinnati Midwife on Facebook Zamudimj@UC.mail.uc.edu

