

# **Experimental Therapies and Future Research**

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**Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Sexual Medicine**  
**Editor-in-Chief, Sexual Medicine Reviews**



# Disclosures

**Consultant/Advisory Board: Apricus,  
Emotional Brain, Exploramed,  
Sprout, Strategic Science &  
Technologies**

**Speaker: Ascend, Shionogi**

**Research: Apricus, Neogyn**

## **Learning objectives:**

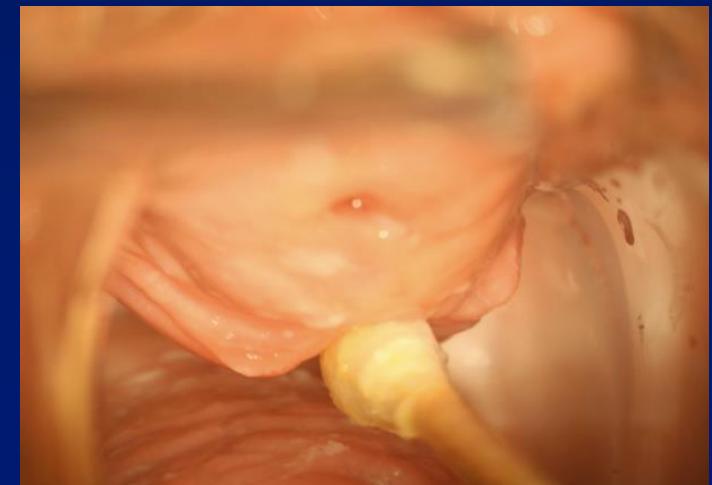
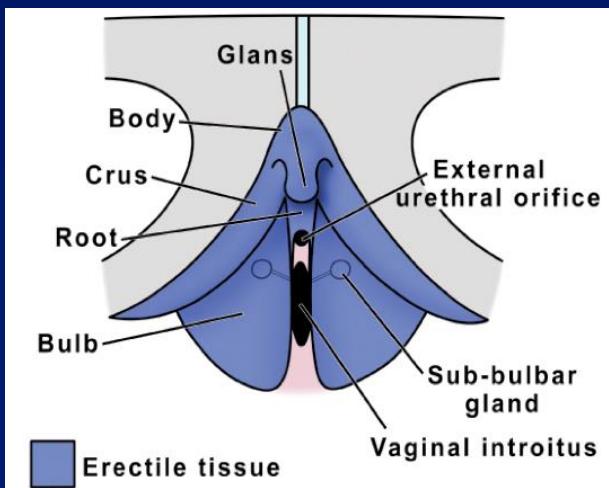
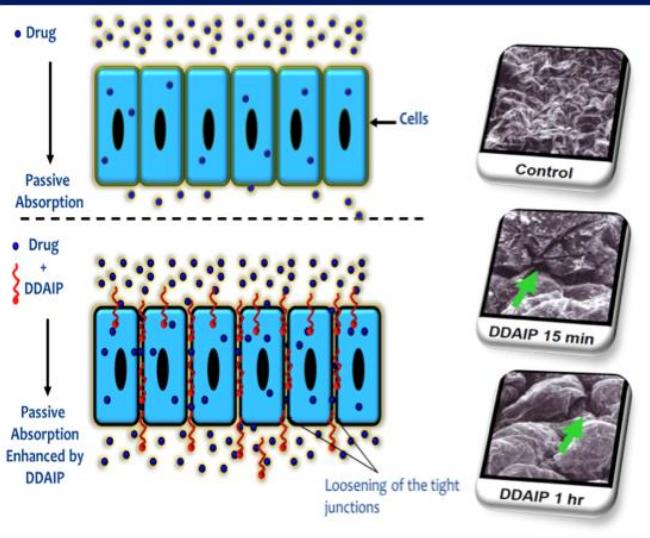
**Characterize the pharmacologic agents and devices being developed for FSD**

# EXPERIMENTAL STRATEGIES

Topical Alprostadil  
Flibanserin  
Bremelanotide

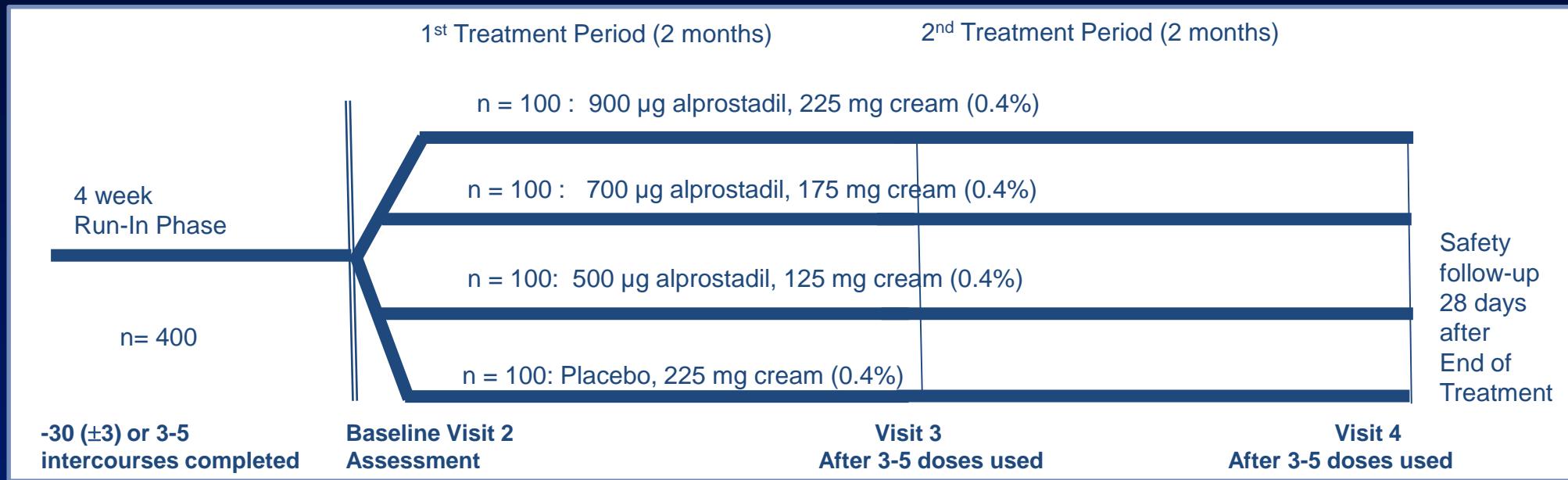
# Alprostadil + DDAIP Cream for FSAD

**DDAIP is a novel proprietary skin permeation enhancer  
It acts by loosening the tight junctions of the skin**



# Topical Alprostadil: Clinical Trial in Female Sexual Arousal Disorder (FSAD)

Overall population: n= 400 women with FSAD, 22 to 65 years old, mean age: 60.7 years



## Primary Efficacy Endpoints

- Satisfactory Sexual Events (SSE), defined as the number of “Yes” responses to Question 3 of the Female Sexual Encounter Profile (FSEP) divided by number of the sexual encounters.

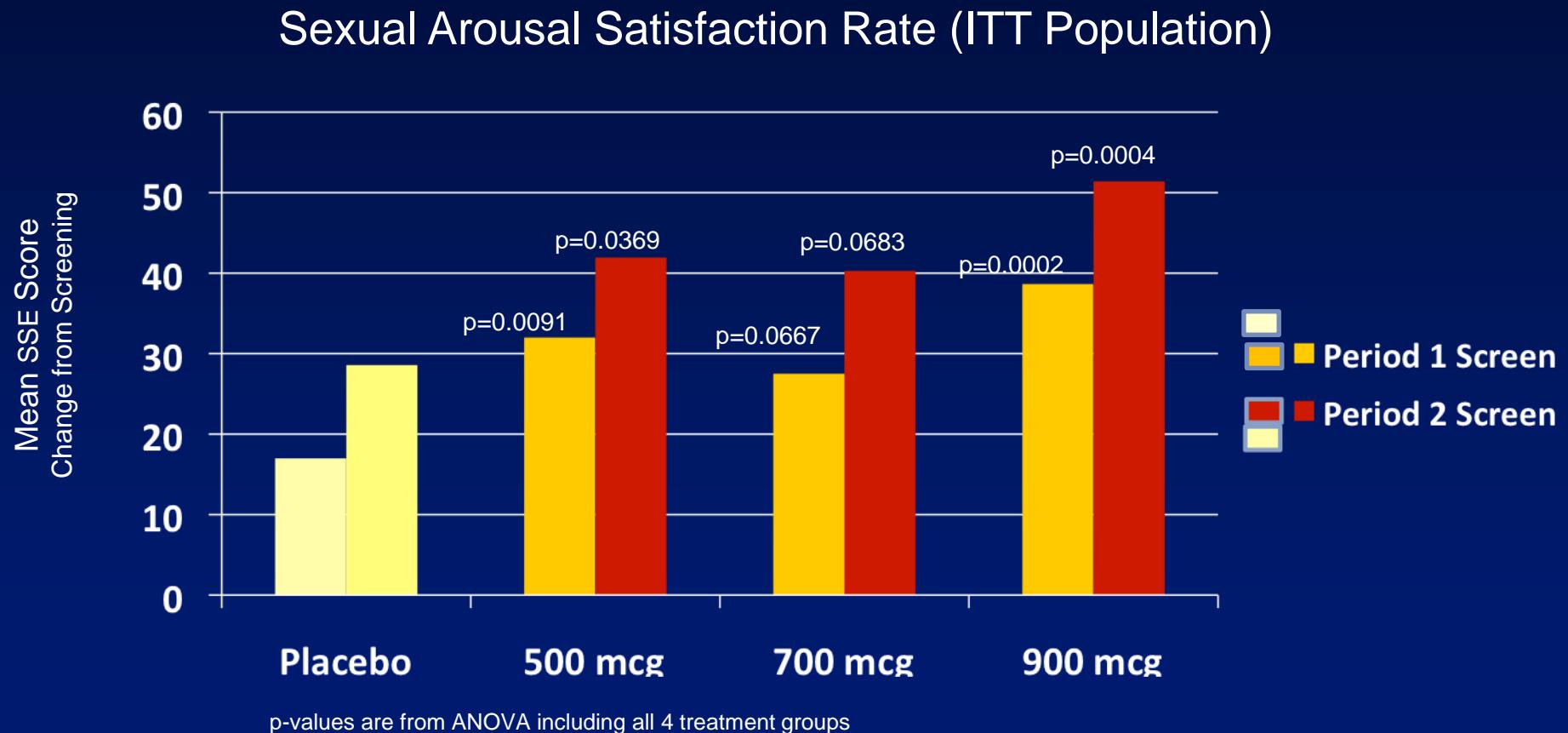
## Secondary Efficacy Endpoint

- Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI), Female Sexual Distress Score (FSDS)
- Global Assessment Question (GAQ)

Goldstein, I. J Sex Med 2013;10:S164.

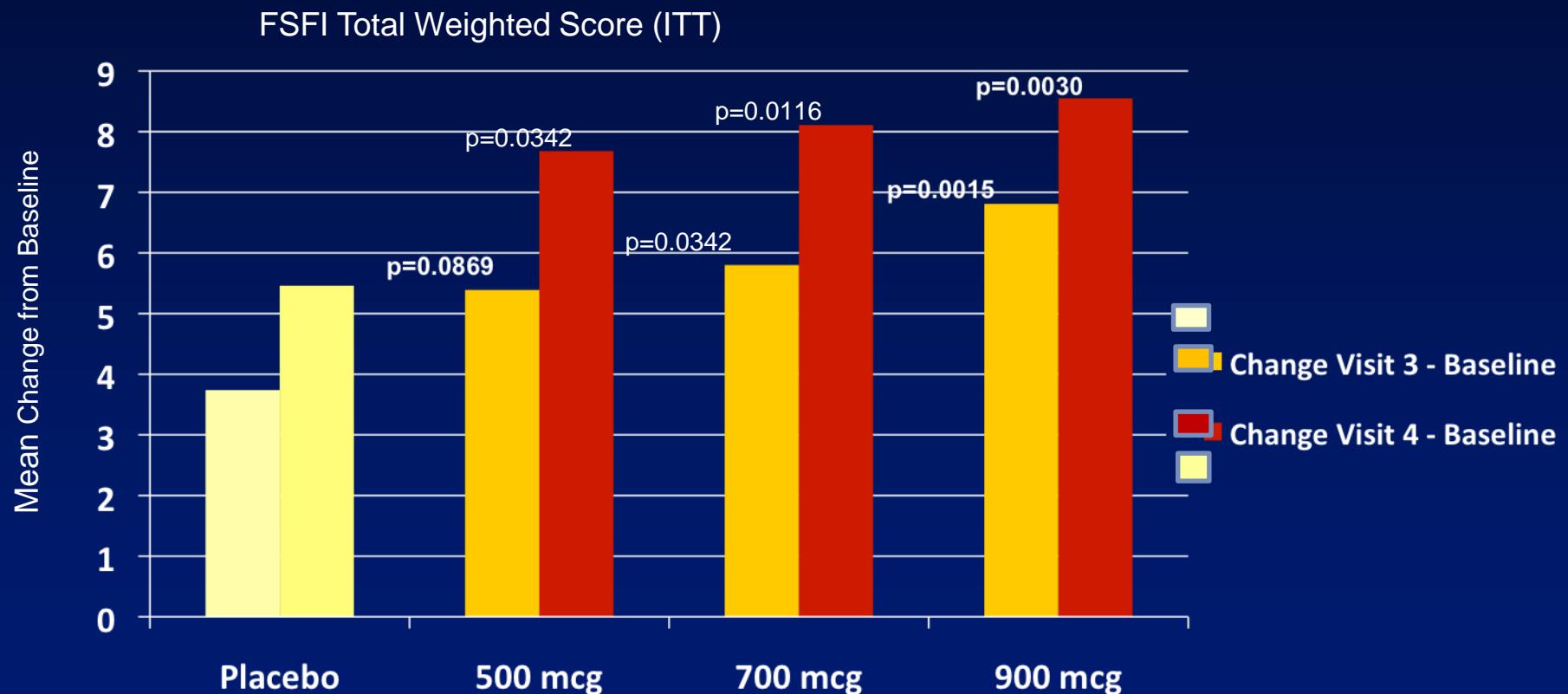
## The mean change of SSE was significant at the 900 mcg dose

Compared to placebo group, the mean change of SSE for the 900 mcg group was Period 1: 38.65 ( $p=0.0002$ ) versus Period 2: 51.4 ( $p=0.0004$ )



Goldstein, I. J Sex Med 2013;10:S164.

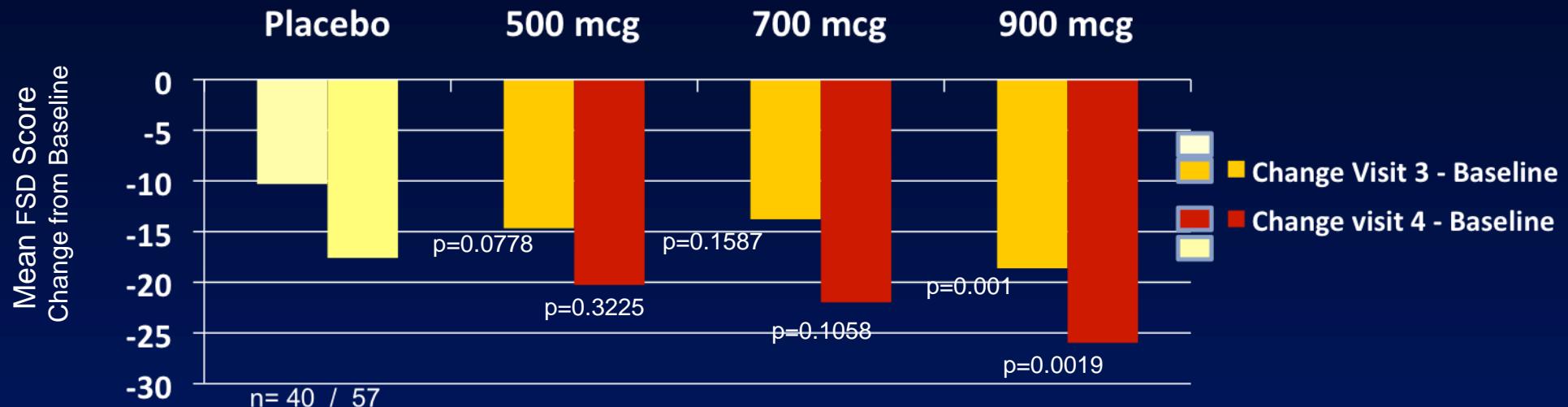
- The mean change of total FSFI score was significant at the 700 and 900 mcg dose during the first period with 5.8 ( $p=0.0342$ ) and 6.8 ( $p=0.0015$ ), respectively.
- At end of period 2, change in total FSFI score were 7.7 ( $p=0.0342$ ), 8.1( $p=0.0116$ ) and 8.6 ( $p=0.0030$ ) for the 500, 700 and the 900 mcg dose, respectively



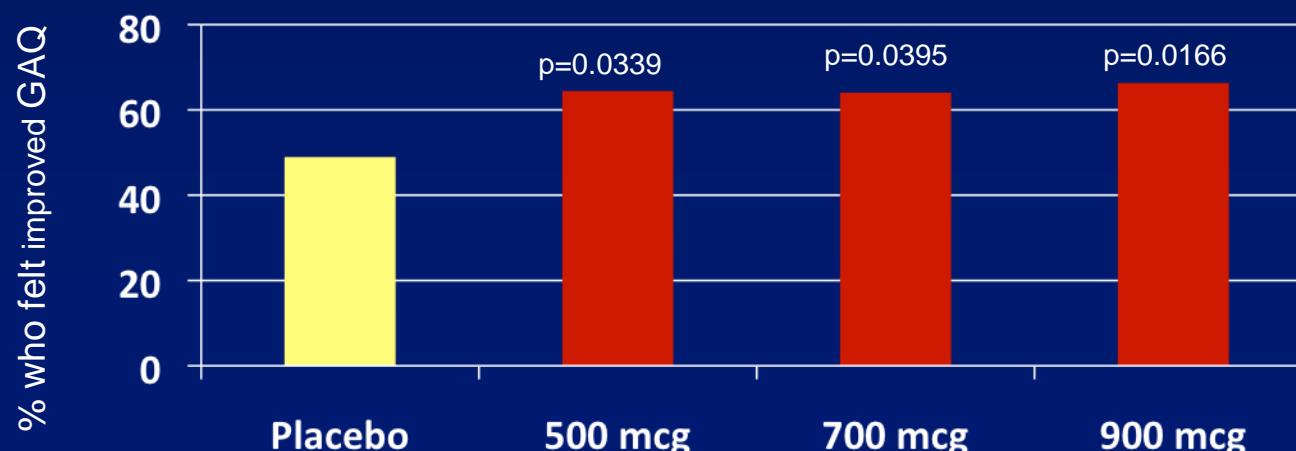
a Zero change was imputed for subject with a missing values at Visit 3 and/or Visit 4.  
p-values are from ANOVA including all 4 treatment groups.

Goldstein, I. J Sex Med 2013;10:S164.

**The FSDS score was significant at the 900 mcg dose with a mean change of -18.62 (p=0.0010, period 1) versus -25.97 (p=0.0019, period 2).**



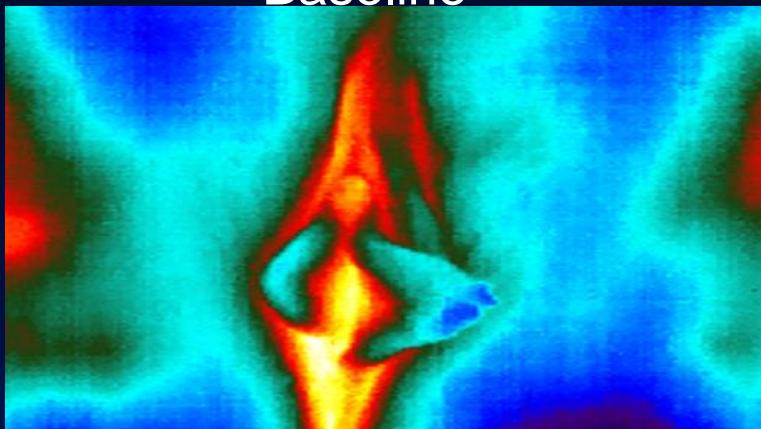
The GAQ score showed 66.3% (p=0.0166) of patients at the 900 mcg dose were satisfied with their sexual encounters.



Goldstein, I. J Sex Med 2013;10:S164.

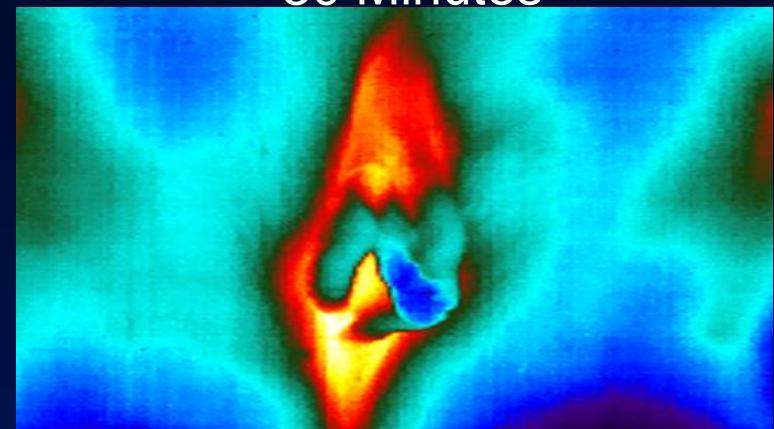
Liao Q, Zhang M, Geng L, Wang X, Song X, Xia P, Lu T, Lu M, Liu V. Efficacy and safety of alprostadil cream for the treatment of female sexual arousal disorder: a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in Chinese population. J Sex Med. 2008 Aug;5(8):1923-31.

Baseline



Patient 011 Study Drug A

30 Minutes

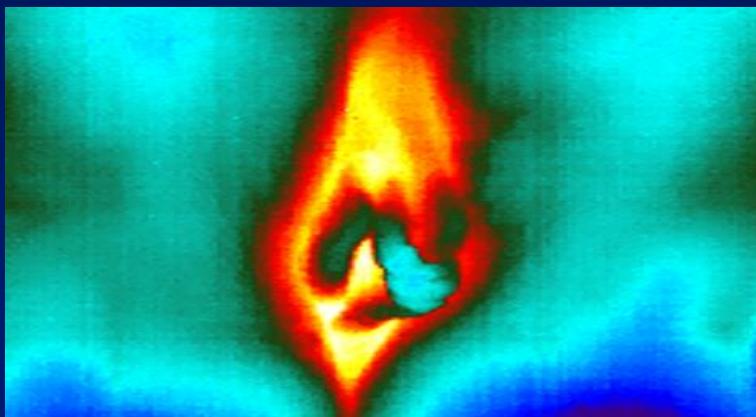


Vestibular Temp – 34.8° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.9° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.1° celsius

Max Change  
in Temperature

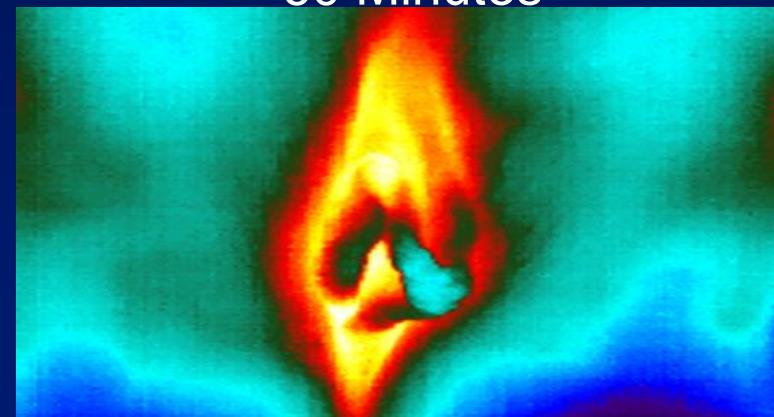
Vestibule – 1.1 ° C  
Clitoral – 1.5 ° C  
Vulvar – 0.7 ° C

45 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 35.5° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 36.1° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.5° celsius

60 Minutes

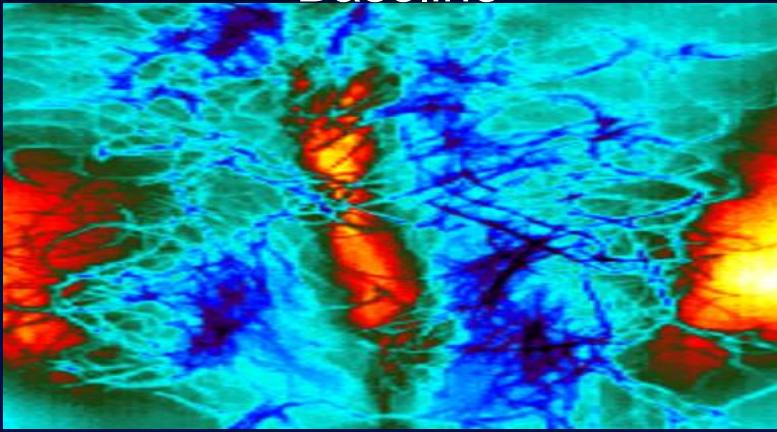


Vestibular Temp – 35.9° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 36.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.6° celsius

Baseline

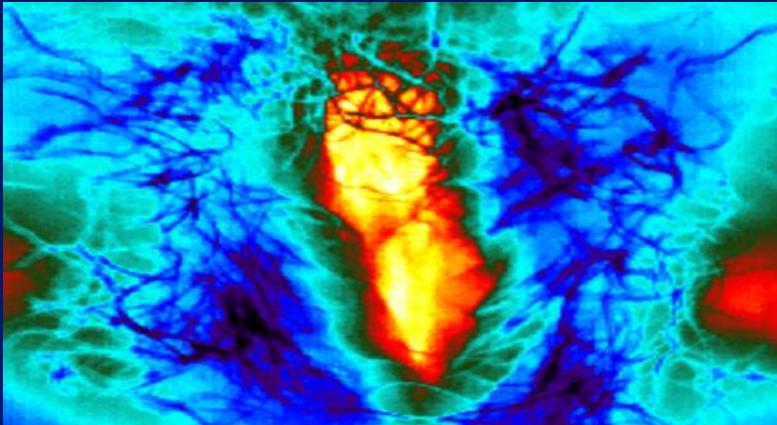
Patient 012 Study Drug A

30 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 32.9° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 32.9° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 32.7° celsius

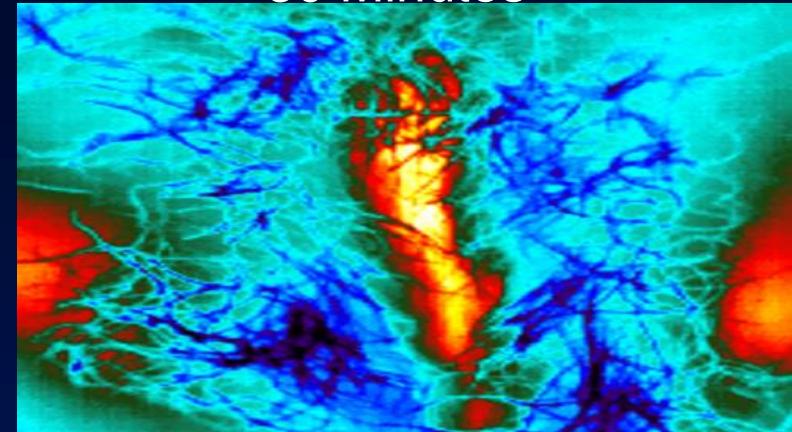
45 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 35.7° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.2° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 33.6° celsius

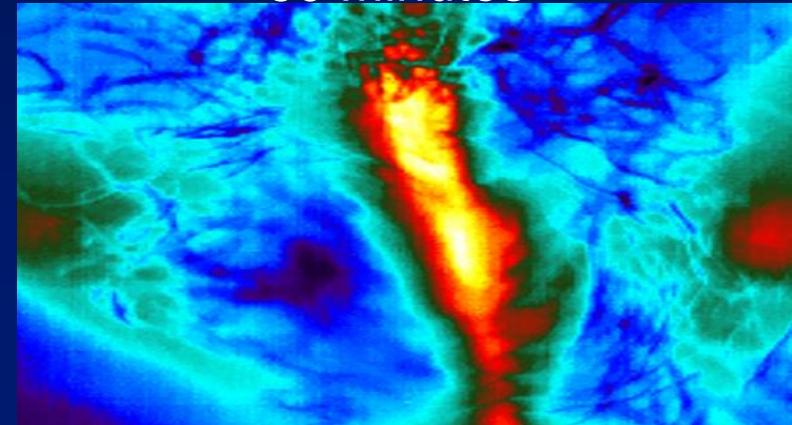
Max Change  
in Temperature

Vestibule – 2.9 ° C  
Clitoral – 2.5 ° C  
Vulvar – 1.1 ° C



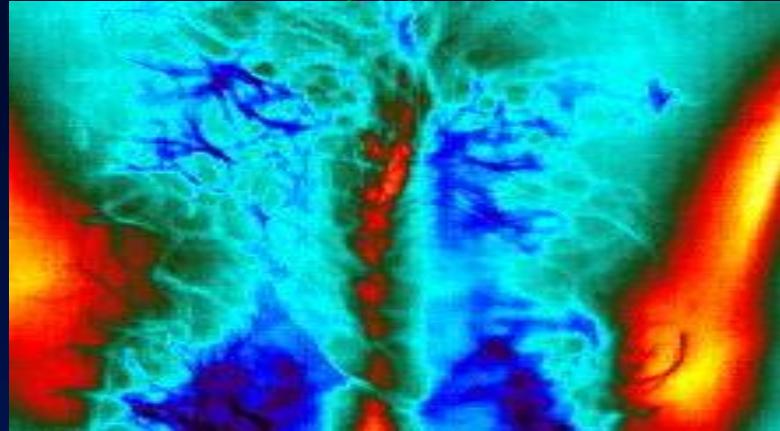
Vestibular Temp – 33.8° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 33.5° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 32.6° celsius

60 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 35.1° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.1° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 33.5° celsius

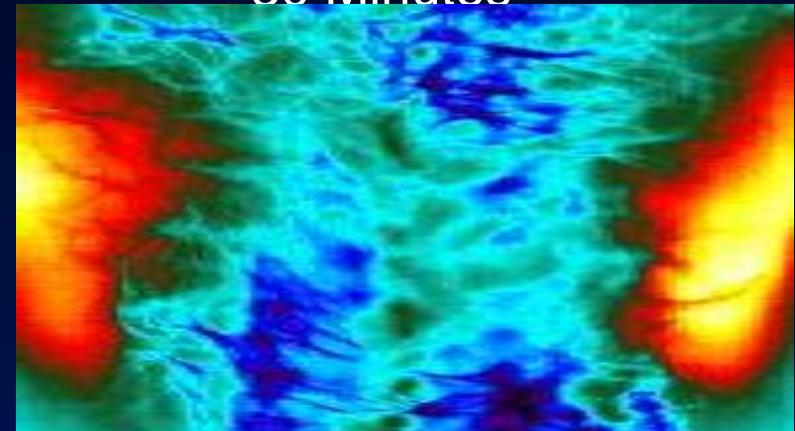
Baseline



Vestibular Temp – 32.4° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 32.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 32.8° celsius

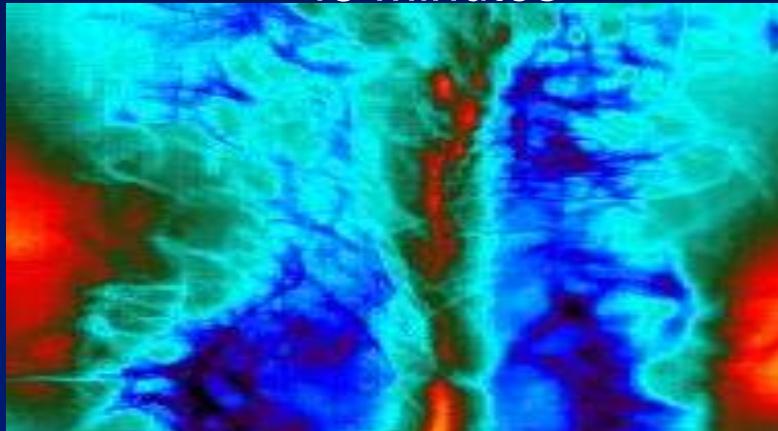
## Patient 012 Study Drug B

30 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 32.2° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 32.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 31.8° celsius

45 Minutes

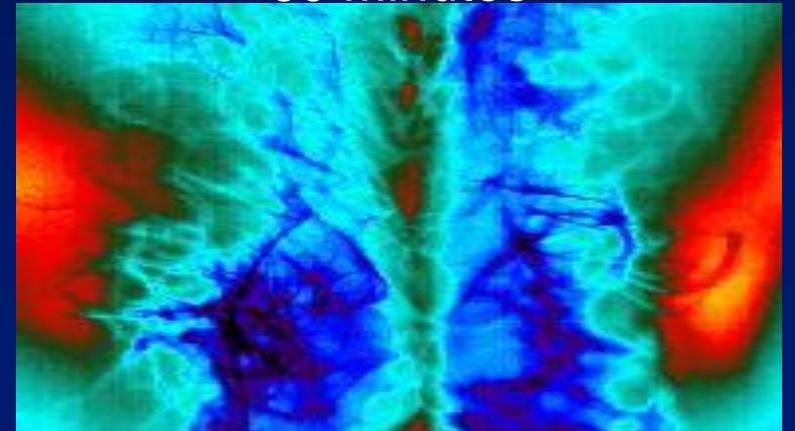


Vestibular Temp – 32.0° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 31.9° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 31.1° celsius

Max Change  
in Temperature

Vestibule – 0.5 ° C  
Clitoral – 0.6 ° C  
Vulvar – 0 ° C

60 Minutes

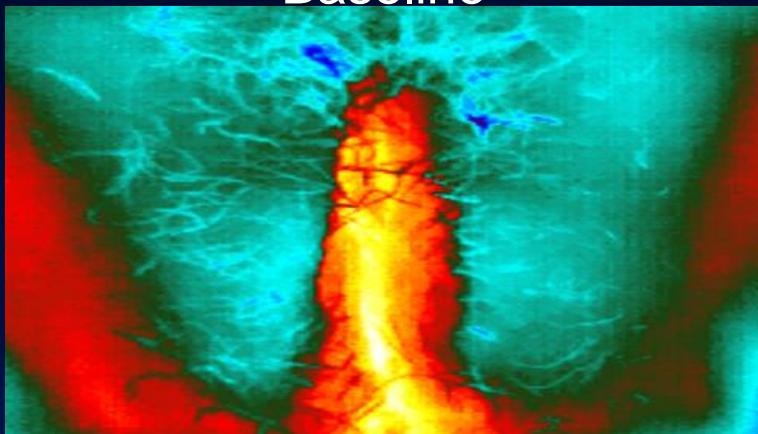


Vestibular Temp – 32.1° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 31.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 30.9° celsius

Baseline

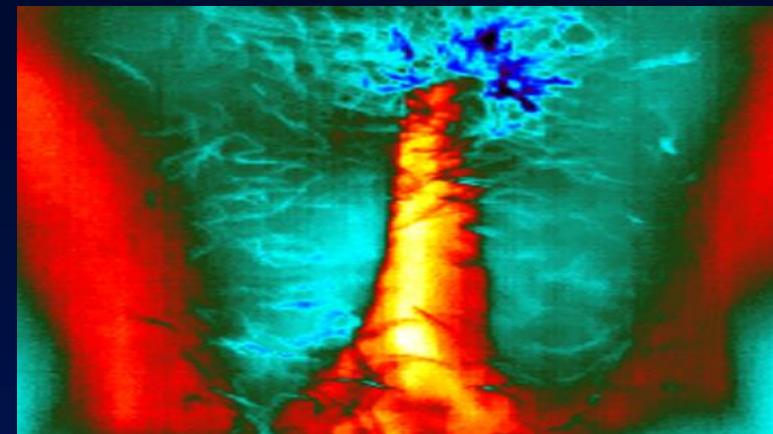
Patient 015 Study Drug B

30 Minutes



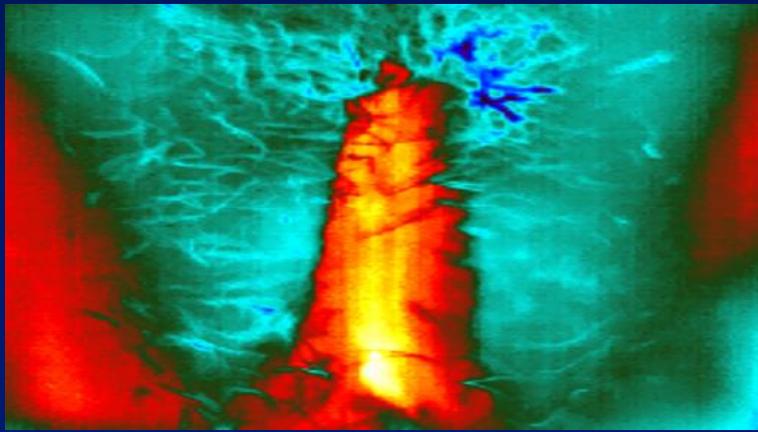
Vestibular Temp – 35.4° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.7° celsius

No Increase in Temperatures



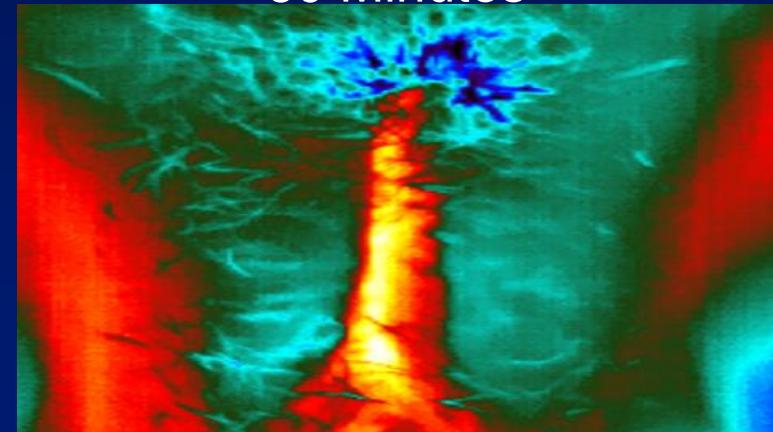
Vestibular Temp – 34.6° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.1° celsius

45 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 35.2° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.8° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.2° celsius

60 Minutes

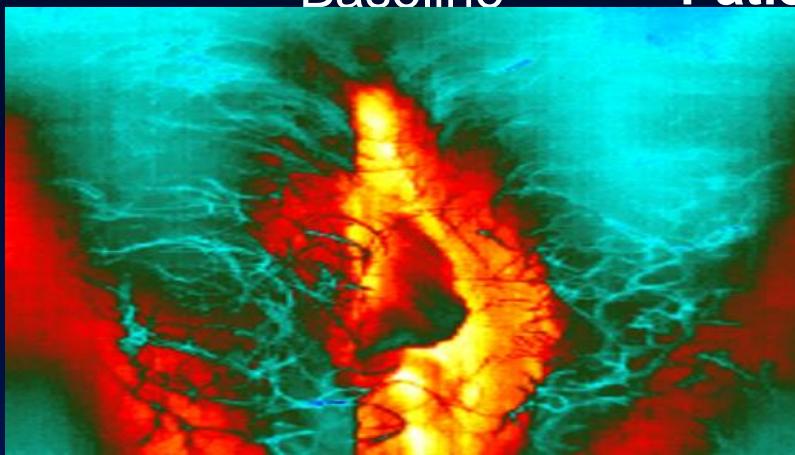


Vestibular Temp – 34.7° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.5° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.2° celsius

Baseline

Patient 014 Study Drug A

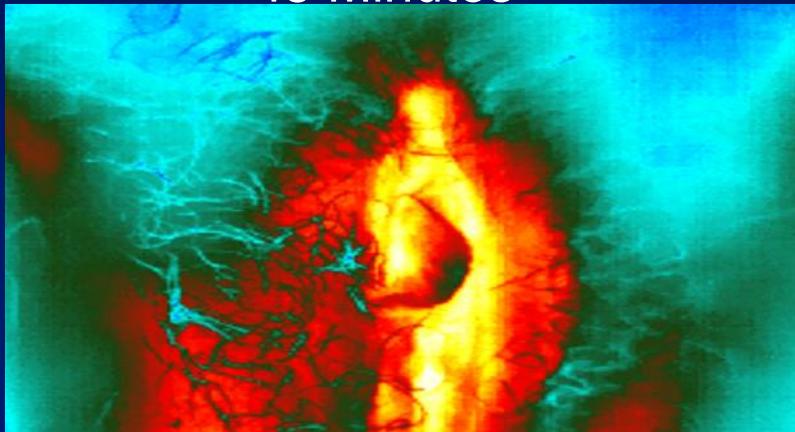
30 Minutes



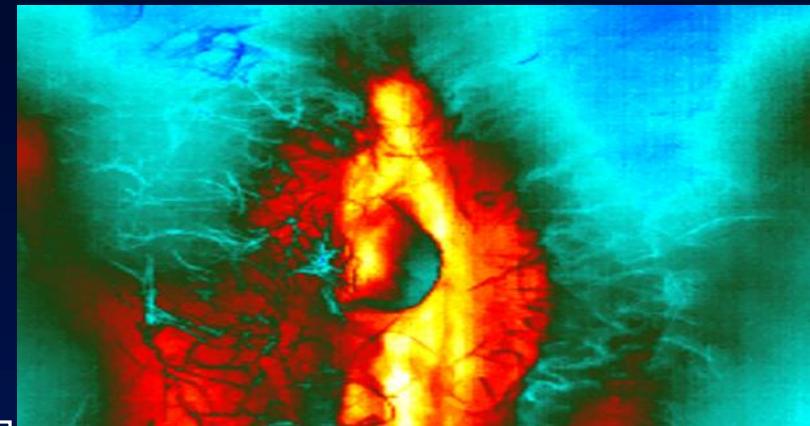
Vestibular Temp – 34.7° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.6° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 33.8° celsius

Max Change in Temperature  
Vestibule – 0.9 ° C  
Clitoral – 0.8 ° C  
Vulvar – 0.5 ° C

45 Minutes

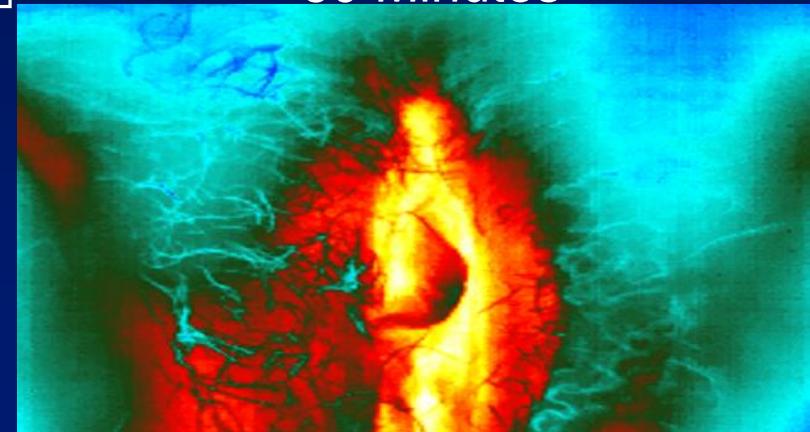


Vestibular Temp – 35.6° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.3° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.2° celsius



Vestibular Temp – 35.0° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 34.7° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 33.7° celsius

60 Minutes

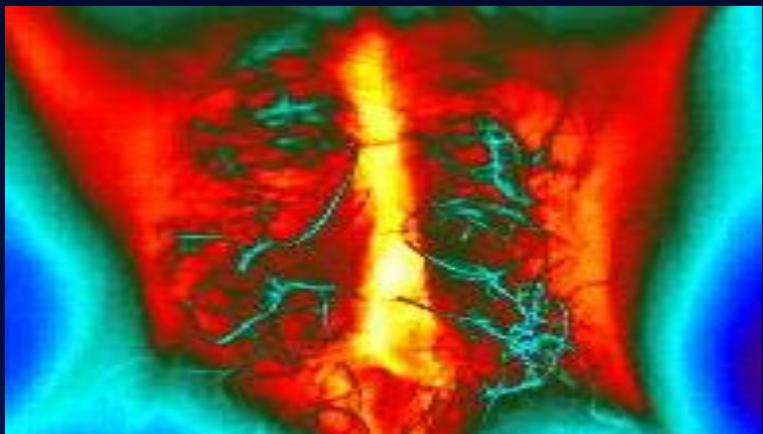


Vestibular Temp – 35.6° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.4° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.1° celsius

Baseline

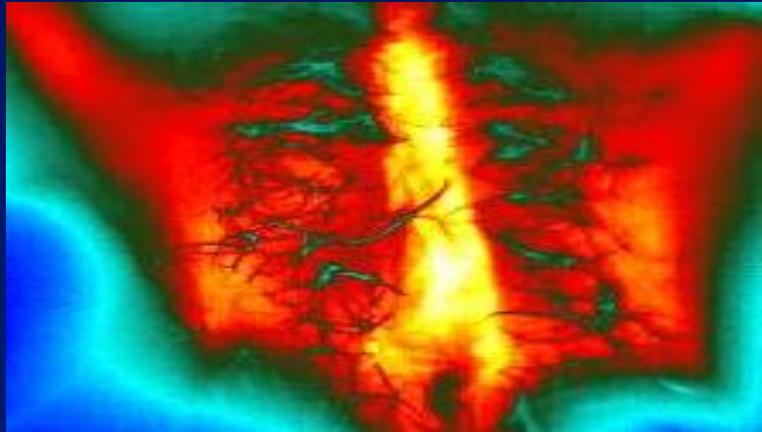
Patient 013 Study Drug A

30 Minutes



Vestibular Temp – 35.3° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.1° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 34.5° celsius

45 Minutes



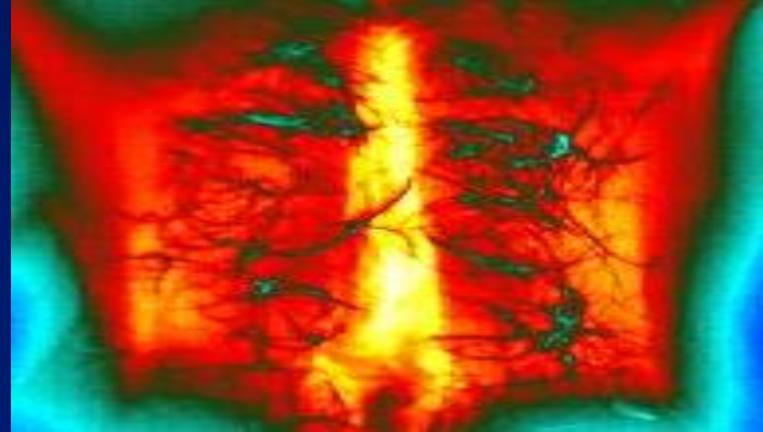
Vestibular Temp – 36.3° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.9° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 35.2° celsius

Max Change  
in Temperature

Vestibule – 1.2 ° C  
Clitoral – 1.1 ° C  
Vulvar – 0.9 ° C

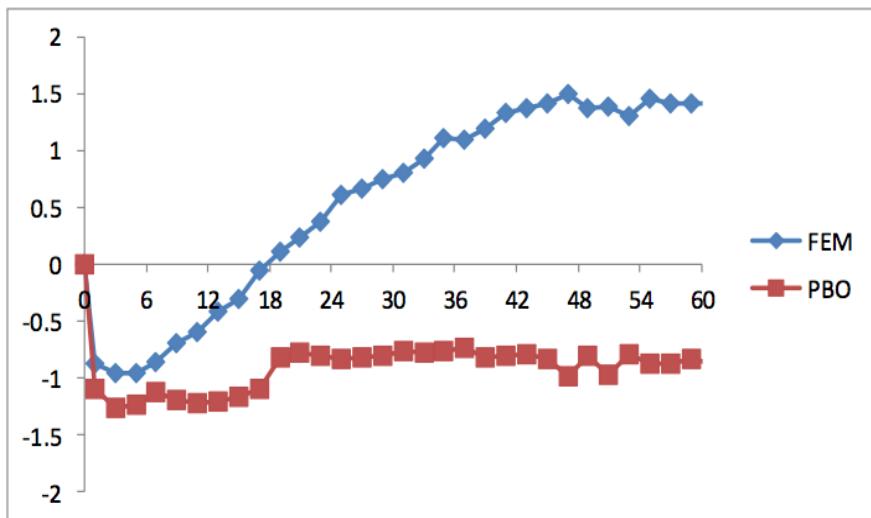
Vestibular Temp – 36.2° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.8° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 35.1° celsius

60 Minutes

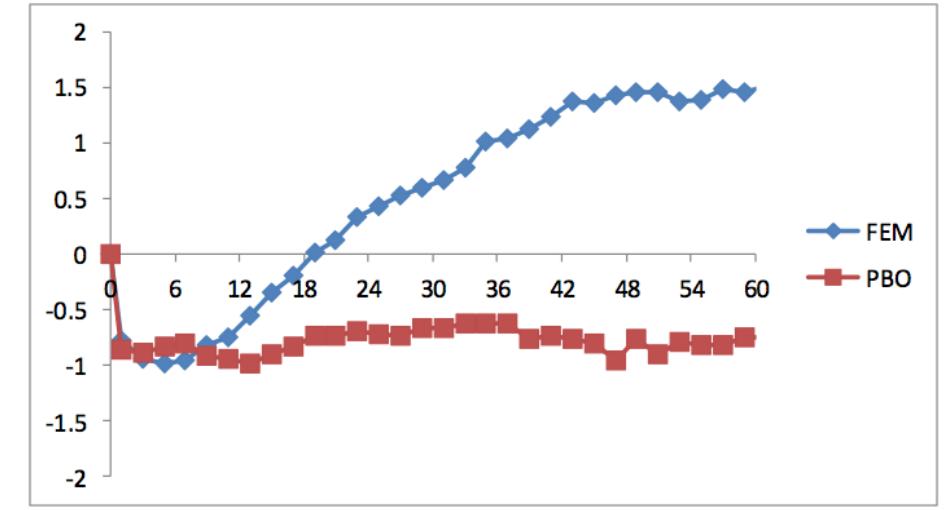


Vestibular Temp – 36.4° celsius  
Clitoral Temp – 35.9° celsius  
Vulvar Temp – 35.6° celsius

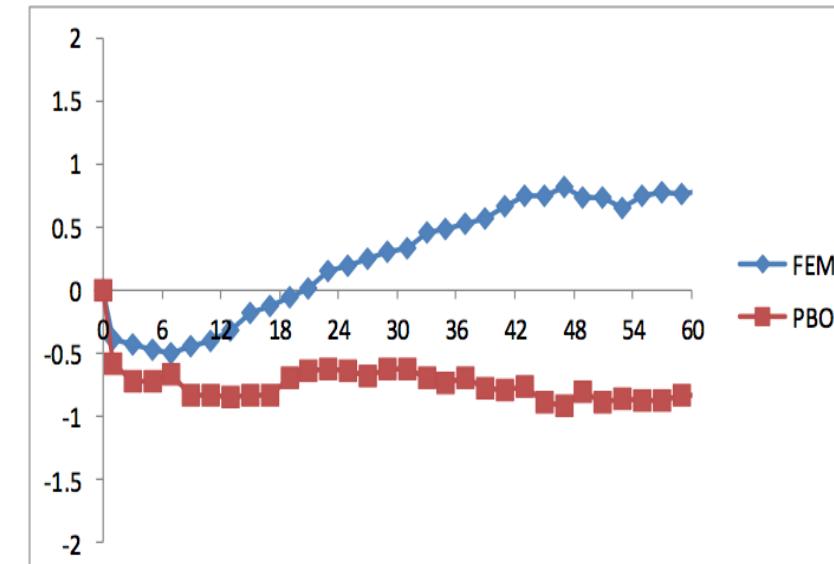
Mean Change from Baseline for Vestibule Temperature



Mean Change from Baseline for Clitoral Temperature



Mean Change from Baseline for Vulvar Temperature

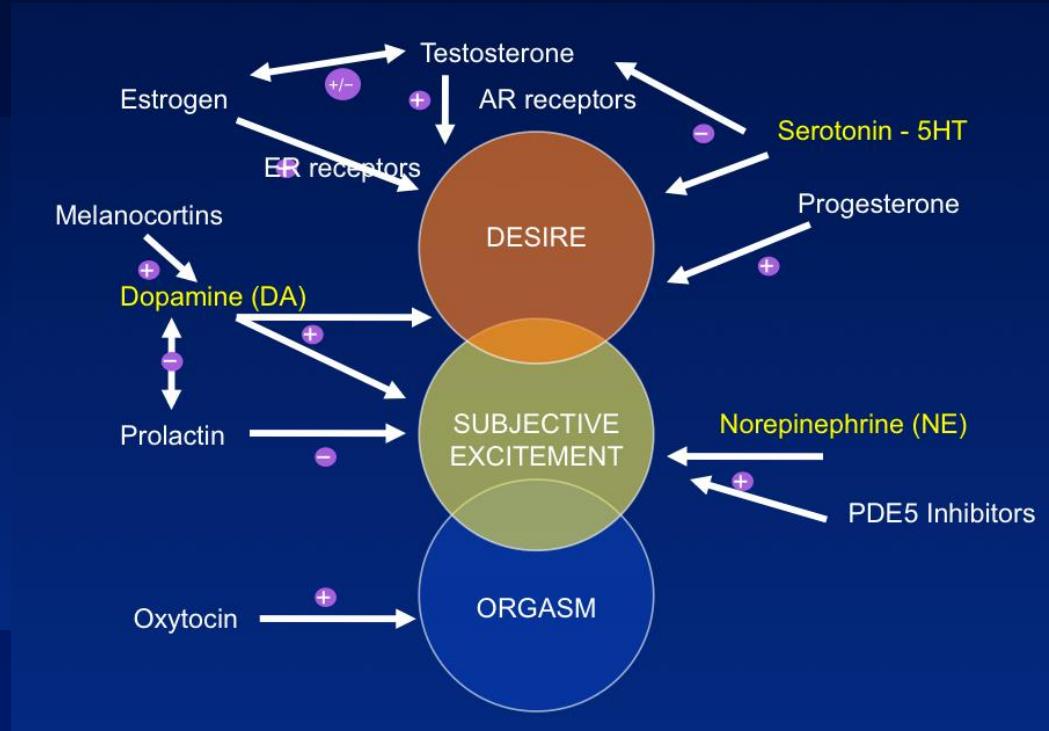
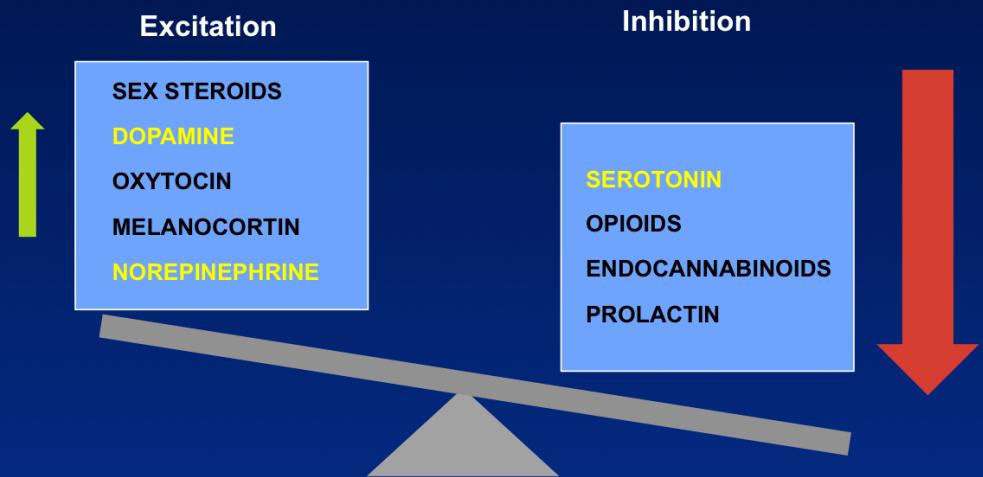


# NEW NON-HORMONAL STRATEGIES

Topical Alprostadil  
**Flibanserin**  
Bremelanotide  
Lybrido and Lybridos

# Psychosocial-Neurobiology of Sexual Response

## HSDD

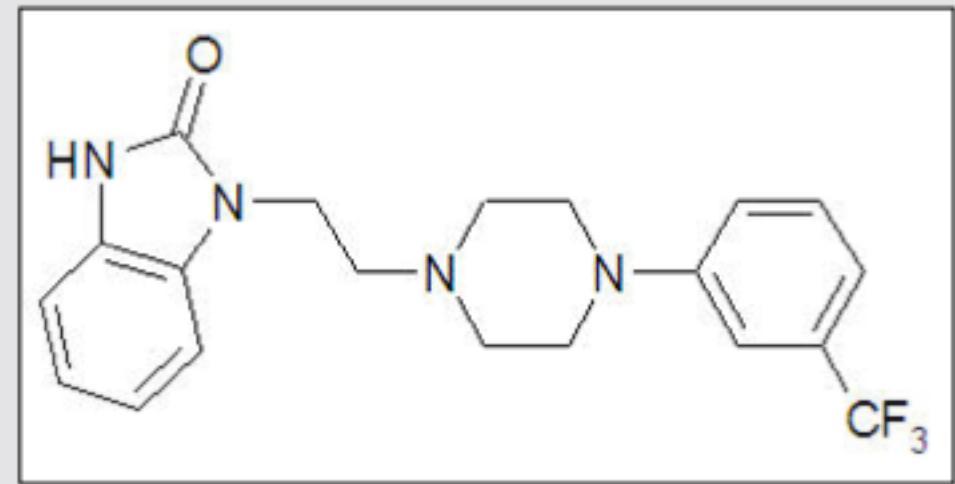


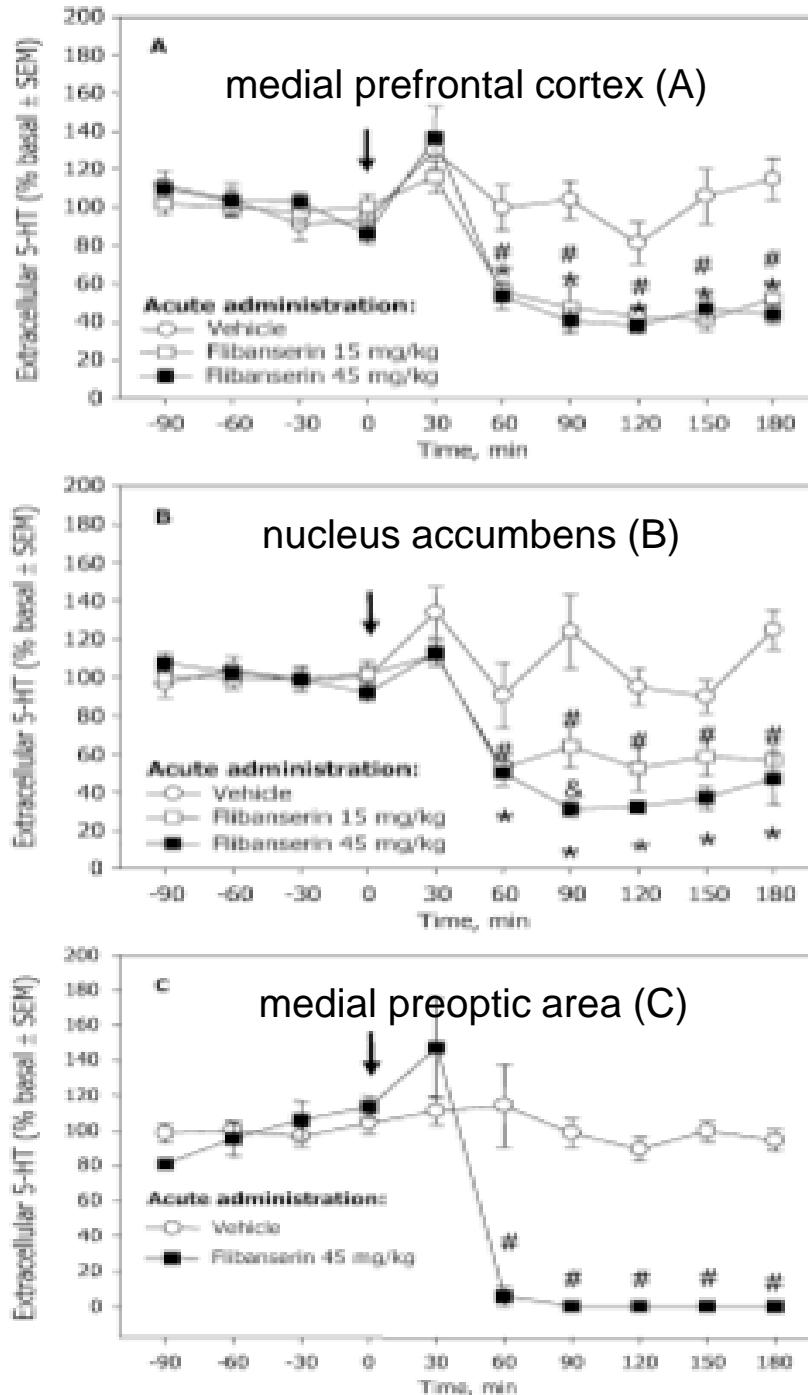
# FLIBANSERIN

- Novel, non-hormonal therapy that works on key sexual pathways in the brain
- Over 10,000 women studied in trials to date
- Once daily pill taken at bedtime
- Demonstrated efficacy on measurements of desire, distress and satisfying sexual events (SSEs)
- Well tolerated safety profile. Most common side effects – dizziness, somnolence, nausea
- Flibanserin acquired by Sprout Pharmaceuticals from Boehringer Ingelheim
- Re-submission to FDA with 12 new trials scheduled for 2013

# FLIBANSERIN: STRUCTURE MECHANISM OF ACTION

- Serotonin may have a role in HSDD by acting as a sexual satiety signal.
- Serotonergic agents such as the SSRIs inhibit desire, arousal, and orgasm.
- Flibanserin is a 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptor agonist
- Stimulating the serotonin 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor has been associated with decreased sexual behavior (male rodents)
- Flibanserin is a 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> antagonist which might have pro-sexual effects.





# Effect of acute administration of vehicle or flibanserin (15 or 45 mg/kg, arrow) on 5-HT levels in:

\*P < 0.05 in comparison with vehicle, 15 mg/kg flibanserin-administered group

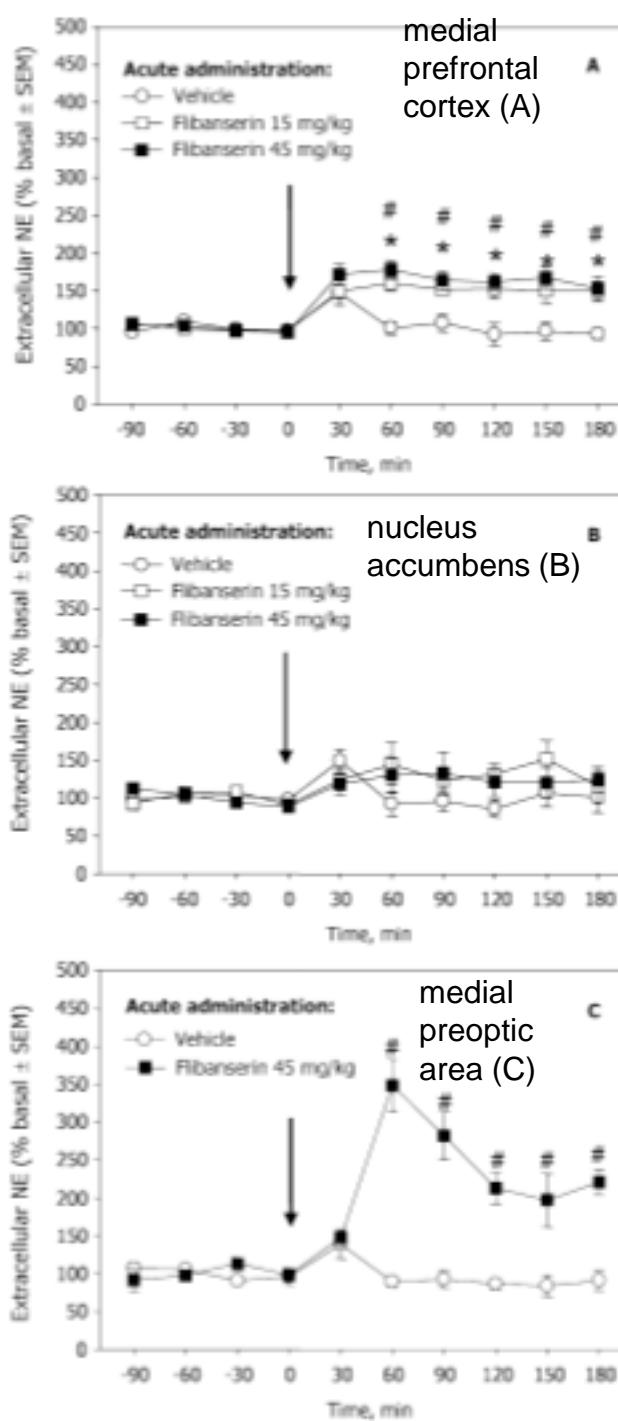
#P < 0.05 in comparison with vehicle, 45 mg/kg flibanserin-administered group

&P < 0.05, 45 mg/kg flibanserin in comparison with 15 mg/kg flibanserin-administered group

Acute and Repeated Flibanserin Administration in Female Rats Modulates Monoamines Differentially Across Brain Areas: A Microdialysis Study  
J Sex Med 2010;7:1757–1767

Kelly A. Allers, PhD,\* Eliyahu Dremencov, PhD,† Angelo Ceci, PhD,\* Gunnar Flik, PharmD,\* Boris Ferger, PhD,\* Thomas I.F.H. Creemers, PhD,† Carina Ittrich, PhD,\* and Bernd Sommer, PhD\*

\*Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH, Biberach an der Riss, Germany; †Brains On-Line B.V., Groningen, the Netherlands



# Effect of acute administration of vehicle or flibanserin (15 or 45mg/kg, arrow) on norepinephrine (NE) levels in:

\*P < 0.05 in comparison with vehicle, 15 mg/kg flibanserin-administered group

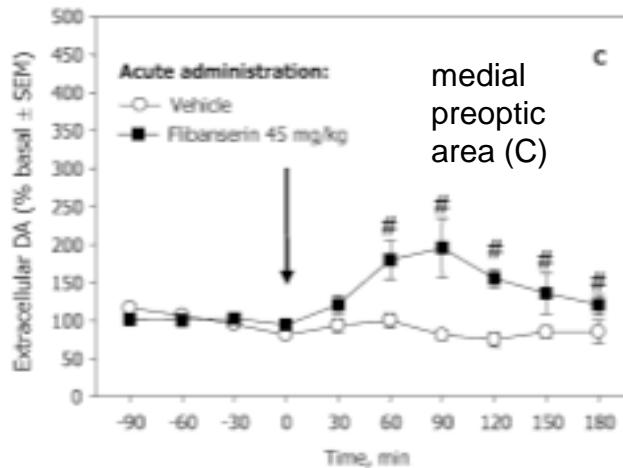
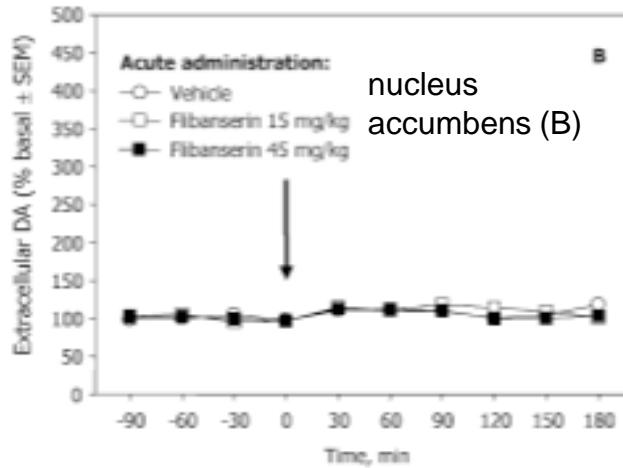
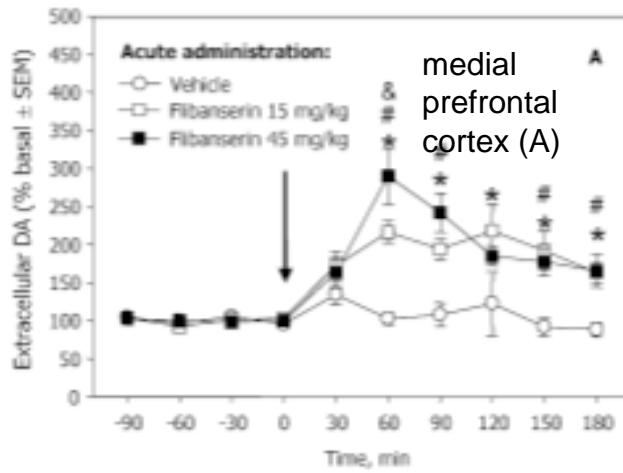
#P < 0.05 in comparison with vehicle, 45 mg/kg flibanserin-administered group

Acute and Repeated Flibanserin Administration in Female Rats Modulates Monoamines Differentially Across Brain Areas:  
A Microdialysis Study

J Sex Med

Kelly A. Allers, PhD,\* Eliyahu Dremencov, PhD,† Angelo Ceci, PhD,\* Gunnar Flik, PharmD,\* Boris Ferger, PhD,\* Thomas I.F.H. Creemers, PhD,† Carina Ittrich, PhD,\* and Bernd Sommer, PhD\*

\*Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH, Biberach an der Riss, Germany; †Brains On-Line B.V., Groningen, the Netherlands



# Effect of acute administration of vehicle or fibanserin(15 or 45mg/kg, arrow) on dopamine (DA) levels in:

#P < 0.05 in comparison with vehicle, 45 mg/kg fibanserin-administered group  
 &P < 0.05, 45 mg/kg fibanserin in comparison with 15 mg/kg fibanserin-administered group

Acute and Repeated Fibanserin Administration in Female Rats Modulates Monoamines Differentially Across Brain Areas:  
 A Microdialysis Study

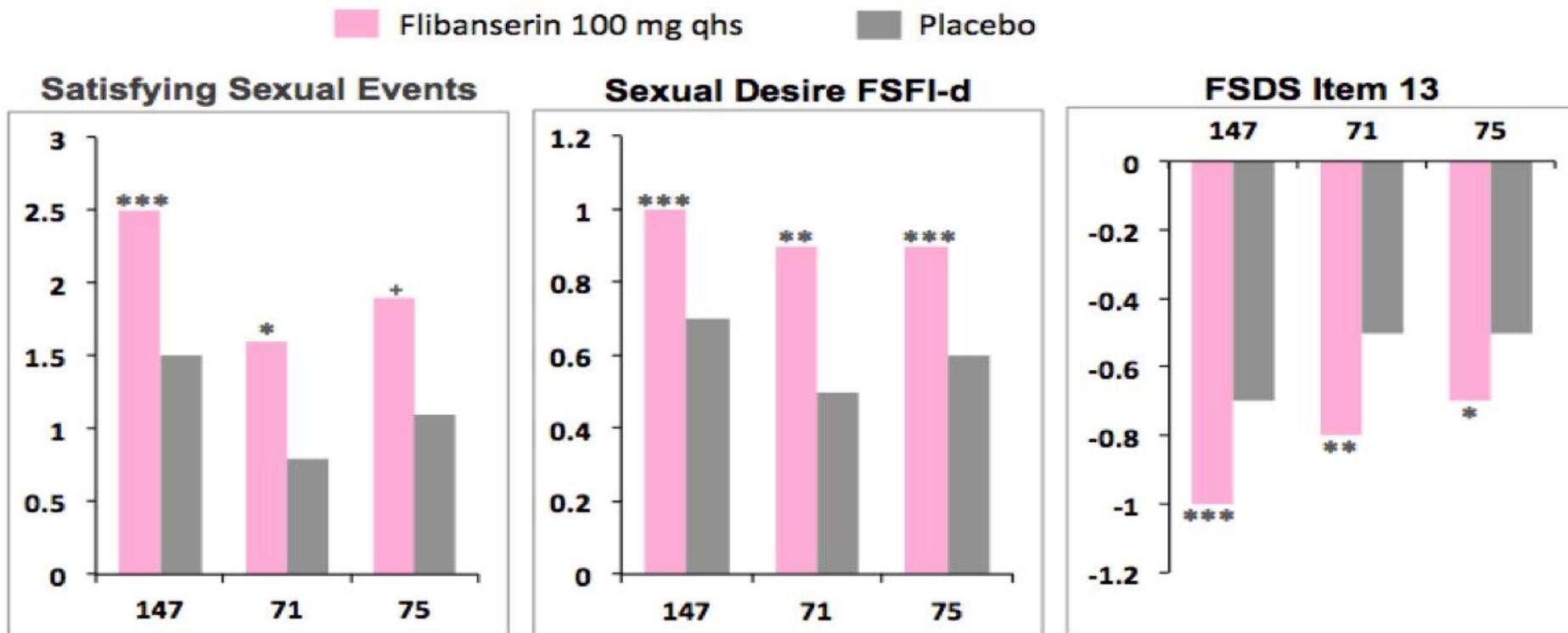
*J Sex Med*

Kelly A. Allers, PhD,\* Eliyahu Dremencov, PhD,† Angelo Ceci, PhD,† Gunnar Flik, PharmD,\* Boris Ferger, PhD,\* Thomas I.F.H. Creemers, PhD,† Carina Ittrich, PhD,\* and Bernd Sommer, PhD\*

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# Pharmaceutical Agents for Desire/Arousal

## Consistent Efficacy (Change from Baseline)– Three US Phase III Clinical Trials\*



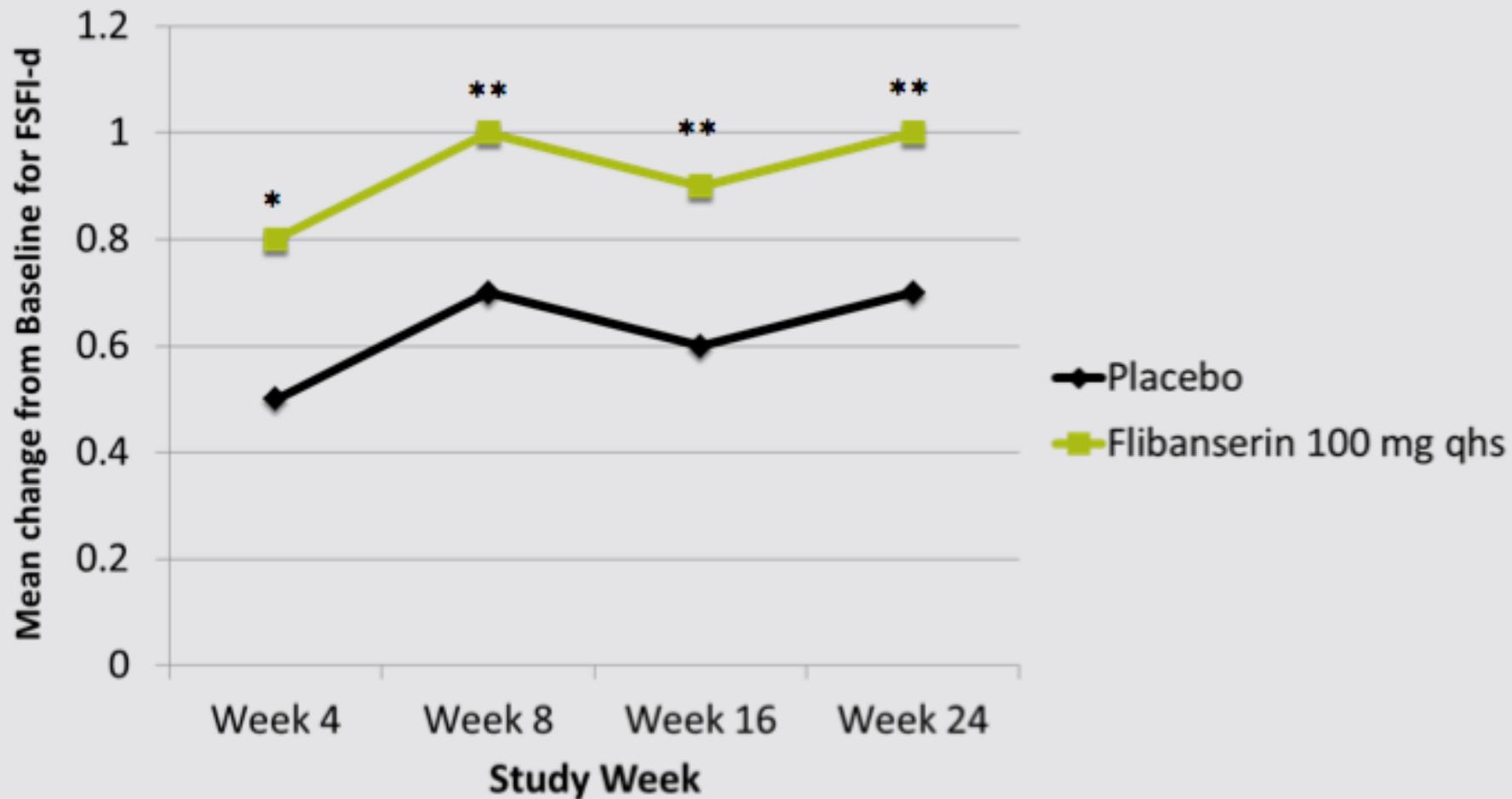
\*last observations carried forward at end of study; \*\*\*p<0.0001; \*\*p<0.001; \*p<0.01; +p<0.05

147 – M. Katz, L. DeRogatis, R. Ackerman, P. *Sex Med* 2013 (ePub 14 May 2013)

71 – DeRogatis LR, Komar L, Katz M, et. al. *J Sex Med* 2012 9(4): 1074-1085.

75 – Thorp J, Simon J, Dattani D, et. al. *J Sex Med* 2012, 9(3): 793-804.

# CHANGE FROM BASELINE FOR FSFI-DESIRE DOMAIN (FSFI-d) – STUDY 511.147



\* p = 0.0002; \*\* p < 0.0001 difference between placebo and flibanserin

Thorp J, Simon J, Dattani D, Taylor L, Kimura T, Garcia M Jr, Lesko L, Pyke R; DAISY trial investigators. Treatment of hypoactive sexual desire disorder in premenopausal women: efficacy of flibanserin in the DAISY study. J Sex Med. 2012 Mar;9(3):793-804.

## ADVERSE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN > 5% OF SUBJECTS IN THE PHASE 3 NDA TRIALS AND IN STUDY 511.147

Studies 511.70, 71, 75, and 77

Preferred Term	Placebo N (%)	Flibanserin 100 mg N (%)
Number of Subjects	1360	1001
Dizziness	34 (2.5%)	120 (11.9%)
Nausea	58 (4.3%)	119 (11.9%)
Fatigue	77 (5.7%)	110 (11.0%)
Somnolence	40 (2.9%)	95 (9.5%)
Insomnia	32 (2.4%)	51 (5.1%)

Study 511.147

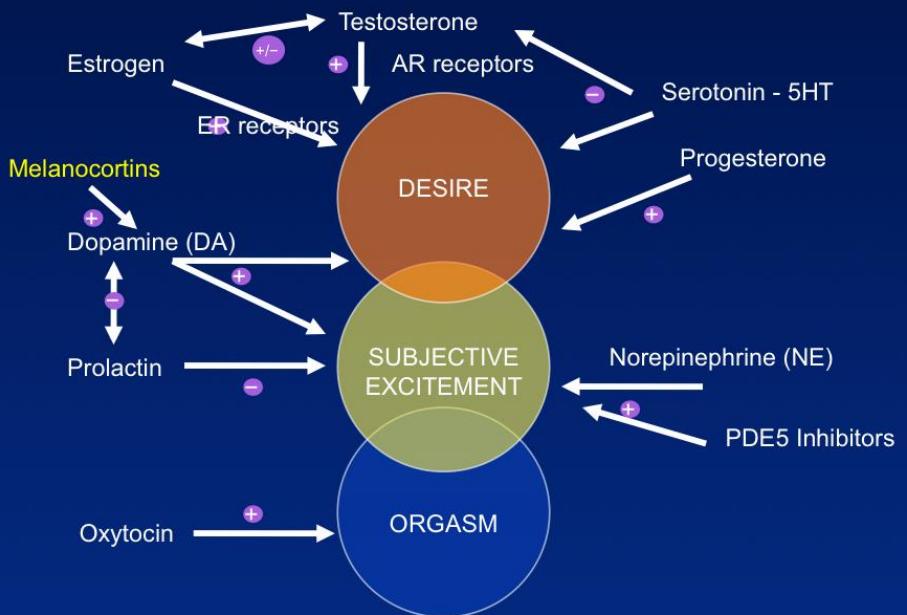
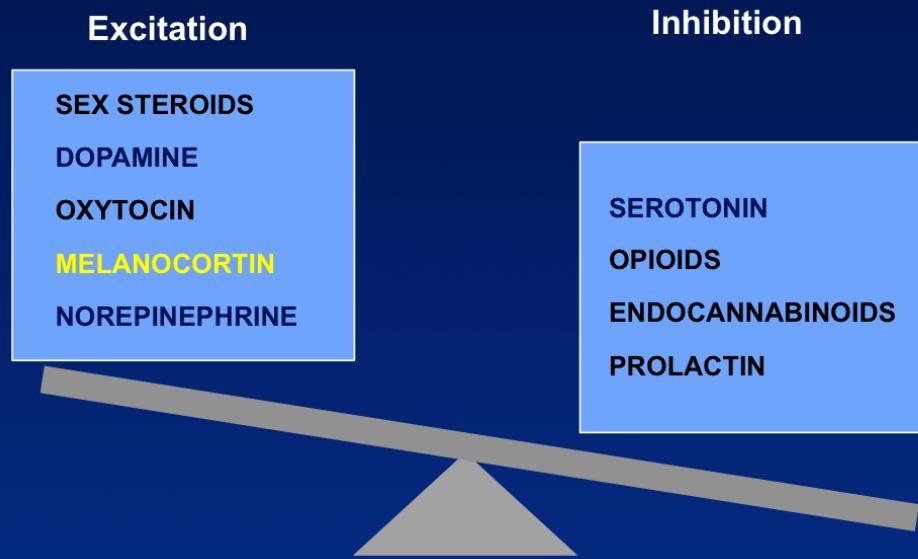
Preferred Term	Placebo N (%)	Flibanserin 100 mg N (%)
Number of Subjects	545	542
Dizziness	6 (1.1%)	56 (10.3%)
Nausea	12 (2.2%)	41 (7.6%)
Fatigue	18 (3.3%)	31 (5.7%)
Somnolence	19 (3.5%)	78 (14.4%)
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	13 (2.4%)	28 (5.2%)

# NEW NON-HORMONAL STRATEGIES

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Flibanserin  
**Bremelanotide**  
Lybrido and Lybridos

# Psychosocial-Neurobiology of Sexual Response

## HSDD

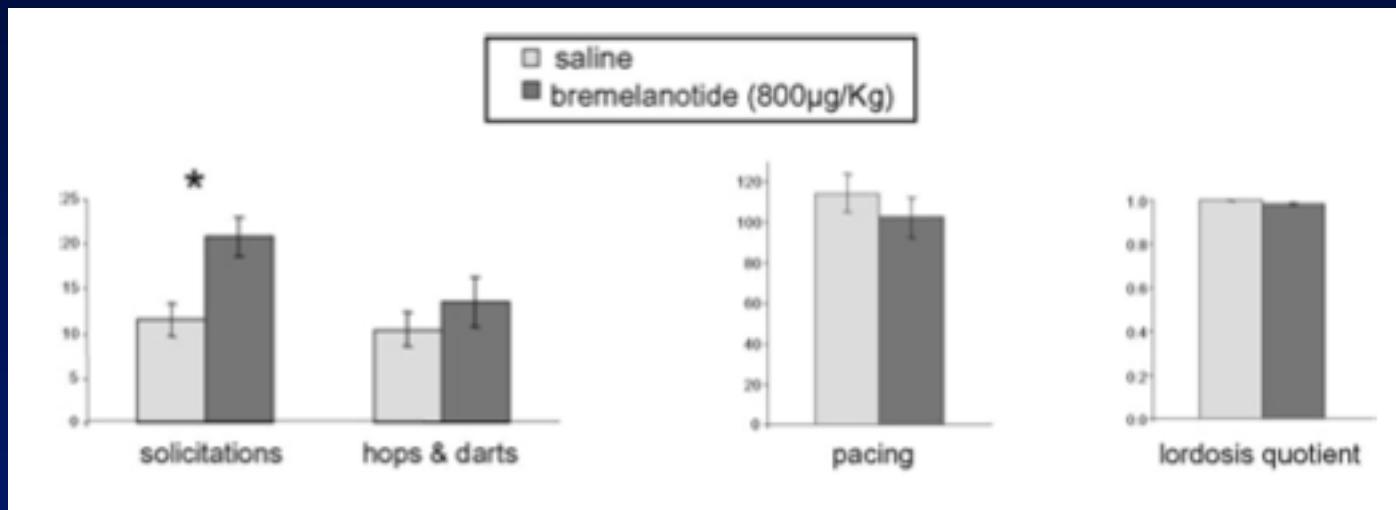


# Bremelanotide: An Overview of Preclinical CNS Effects on Female Sexual Function

J Sex Med 2007;4(suppl 4):269–279

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Bremelanotide increased measures of solicitation in female rats, without altering pacing or lordosis, following both peripheral (subcutaneous) administration or infusions directly into the lateral ventricles or medial preoptic area (mPOA)

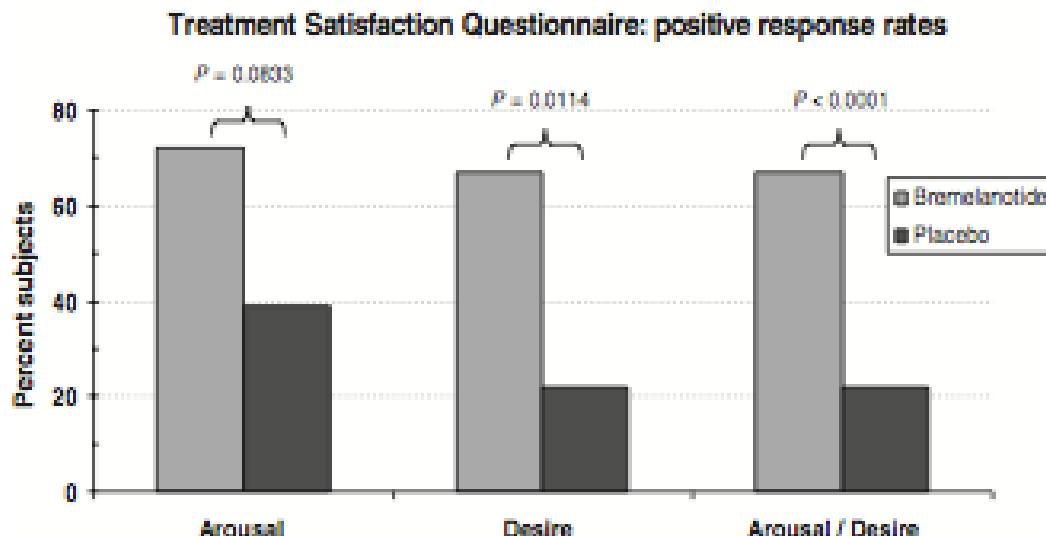
# An Effect on the Subjective Sexual Response in Premenopausal Women with Sexual Arousal Disorder by Bremelanotide (PT-141), a Melanocortin Receptor Agonist

J Sex Med 2006;3:628–638

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**Figure 1** Positive response rates of subjects after treatment with bremelanotide and after treatment with placebo to Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire questions: "Did you have any feelings of genital arousal?" and "Did you experience any sexual desire?" and response rate of subjects who reported a positive response to both questions.



## Clinical Application of CNS-Acting Agents in FSD

J Sex Med 2007;4(suppl 4):280–290

Michael A. Perelman, PhD

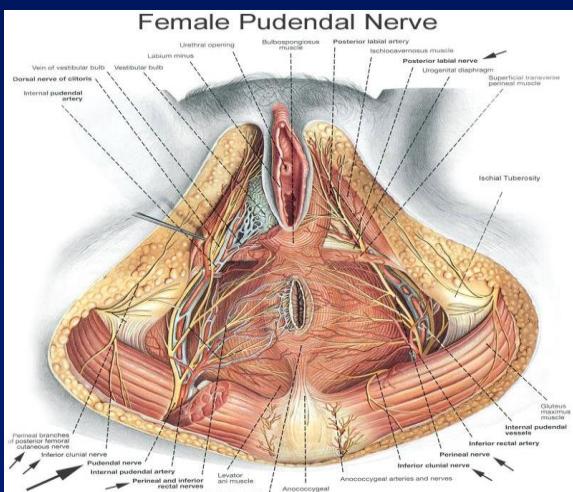
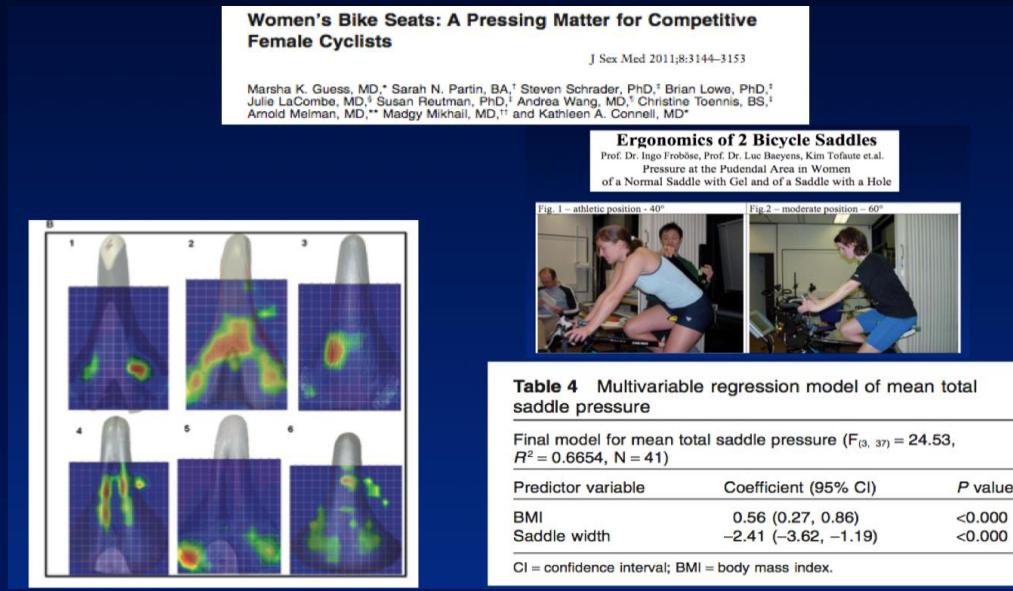
NY Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY, USA

Trials completed to date, primary adverse effects reported to be associated with bremelanotide were nausea, vomiting, flushing, headache, nasal congestion, and transient (1–3 hours post single dose) increases in systolic blood pressure

There may be potential, for dose reduction, to improve the adverse event profile while maintaining good efficacy outcome



# Blunt Trauma to the Perineum - Female

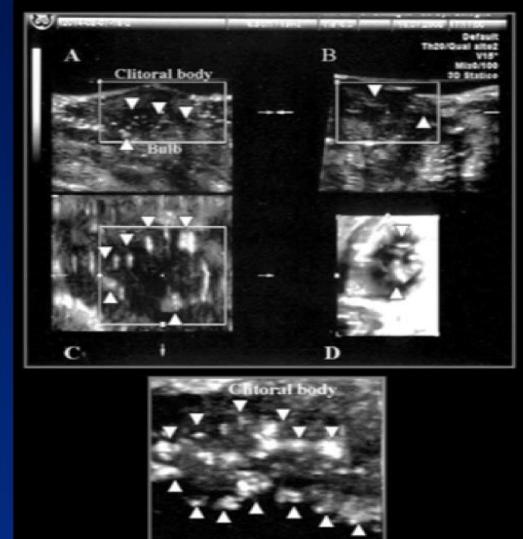


## Ultrasonographic and Doppler Findings of Subclinical Clitoral Microtraumatisms in Mountain Bikers and Horseback Riders

J Sex Med 2009;6:464–468

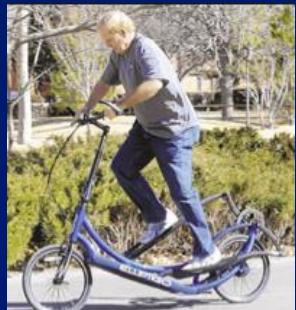
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# How to Prevent Blunt Trauma to the Perineum – Female/Male While Bicycle Riding

## Sex-Friendly Alternative to Bicycling



# References

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