



THE DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF COMMUNICATION AND LOVE IN HETEROSEXUAL, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL WOMEN'S PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF CHRONIC VULVAR AND PELVIC PAIN



WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

Chronic vulvar and pelvic pain can present challenges for women's sexual wellbeing.



The literature on genital and pelvic pain has largely focused on heterosexual women.



We explored experiences of vulvar and pelvic pain in lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual women, and we also explored how levels of communication and love played a role in these experiences.



HOW DID WE COLLECT DATA?

839 lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual women with vulvar pain age 18-45 participated in this online study.

We asked about participants' perceptions of how the pain influenced their relationships, and we asked them to report on levels of communication and love in their relationships.



WHAT DID WE FIND?

Groups differed in how they perceived pain to impact their relationships:



In same-sex couples, relationships were less affected by pain when better communication was reported.

In mixed-sex couples, relationships were less affected by pain when more love was reported.



The information provided is from the following publication in the Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy. "Differential Associations of Communication and Love in Heterosexual, Lesbian, and Bisexual Women's Perceptions and Experiences of Chronic Vulvar and Pelvic Pain."

(Blair, Pukall, Smith, & Cappell, 2015). Available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24918840/>