GENITAL SENSATIONS IN PERSISTENT GENITAL AROUSAL DISORDER: A CASE FOR AN OVERARCHING NOSOLOGY OF GENITOPELVIC DYSESTHESIAS?

Queen's University

WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION ABOUT?

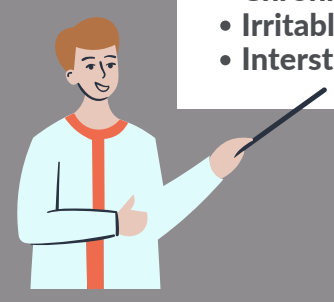
We propose a theoretical framework for understanding persistent genital arousal disorder (PGAD).

PGAD is a distressing condition characterized by persistent sensations of genital arousal (e.g., tingling, restlessness, feeling on the verge of orgasm) in the absence of the psychological experience of sexual desire (feeling "turned on").

We conducted a literature review and found that PGAD may be best thought of as a category of a broader group of conditions characterized by unpleasant, abnormal sensations called dysesthesias.

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH PGAD ALSO REPORT ORGASM, URINARY, AND PAIN SYMPTOMS.

PATIENTS REPORT AN AVERAGE OF 5 CO-MORBID CONDITIONS WHICH FREQUENTLY INCLUDE OTHER GENITOPELVIC HEALTH CONCERNS.



THIS LED US TO PROPOSE A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK THAT CONCEPTUALIZES PGAD SYMPTOMS AS A VARIATION OF THE MANIFESTATION OF GENITOPELVIC CONDITIONS CHARACTERIZED BY UNPLEASANT SENSATIONS.

PGAD CAN THEN BE DIVIDED INTO KNOWN OR UNKNOWN CAUSES AND WHETHER THE SENSATIONS OF AROUSAL OCCUR ON THEIR OWN OR WITH OTHER SENSATIONS (E.G., PAIN).

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PUBLICATION?

This model can aid in conceptualizing PGAD as a disorder characterized by unpleasant, abnormal sensations. It may serve to validate the legitimacy and severity of the condition, reduce stigma, unify research efforts, and improve access to care.

The information presented is based on the publication "Genital Sensations in Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder: A Case for an Overarching Nosology of Genitopelvic Dysesthesias?" (Pukall, Jackowich, Mooney, & Chamberlain, 2019).
Available at https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30301706/