



SEXUAL AROUSAL IN WOMEN WITH PROVOKED VESTIBULODYNIA: THE APPLICATION OF LASER DOPPLER IMAGING TO SEXUAL PAIN



A laser Doppler imager (LDI) projects a non-contact, visible-to-infrared laser beam (like a bar code scanner) onto the skin. An LDI can measure blood flow.



WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

Provoked vestibulodynia (PVD) is pain at the vaginal opening triggered by contact (lasting at least 3 months and without a clear identifiable cause). We examined genital and subjective sexual arousal in women with and without PVD.

HOW DID WE COLLECT DATA?

We recruited 42 participants with and without PVD

Participants watched an erotic film while their genital and subjective arousal were measured.



Genital arousal was measured by the LDI, which tracked blood flow.



Subjective sexual arousal, the psychological experience of feeling "turned on", was measured with a rating scale.



WHAT DID WE FIND?

Women with PVD showed lower genital response (blood flow) to the erotic film.

There were no differences in subjective sexual arousal between the groups.

The results suggest that women with PVD show lower genital responsiveness to sexual stimuli as compared to women without PVD. Their genital arousal is likely impacted by a number of biopsychosocial factors.

The information provided is from the following publication in the Journal of Sexual Medicine. "Sexual arousal in women with provoked vestibulodynia: the application of laser Doppler imaging to sexual pain" (Boyer, Pukall, & Chamberlain, 2013). Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22846436/>