



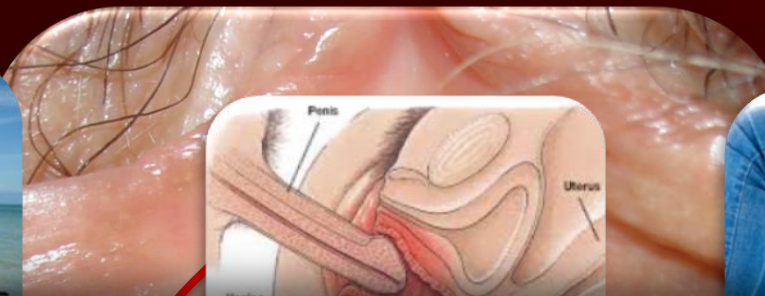
Vulvodinia: lo stato attuale delle conoscenze

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Vulvodinia



Bruciore
Dolore
Dispareunia



Vestibolodinia Provocata



Vestibolodinia: muscolatura pelvica

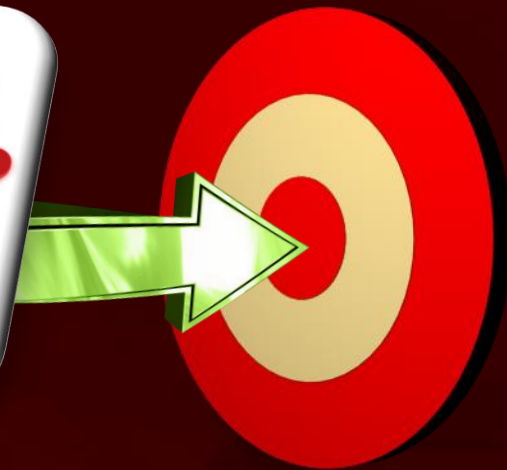


Vulvodinie



Sommatoria di eventi che in modo sequenziale
innesca un'alterata percezione del dolore
con un peso differente nelle varie
fasi di vita della donna

Warning!!!



Iniziali insulti infettivi-irritativi
traumatici-allergici

risk.²⁴ Mechanisms of development of VVD have been widely hypothesized. The current dogma is that during or after an initial vaginal insult with infection, a “susceptible” individual has an inflammatory response that is potentially composed of an abnormally heightened release of proinflammatory cytokines. An individual is then either in a state of chronic inflammation or the infectious process alters and sensitizes the neural tissue in the vulvovaginal area, resulting in localized or generalized allodynia and hyperalgesia.¹

Neurosensibilizzazione con
iperalgnesia ed allodinia

Vestibolodinia e Neurosensibilità

Abstract

Experiencing early life stress or injury to the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis can alter the visceromotor response to vaginocervical (VC) transient receptor potential ankyrin 1 (TRPV1) stimulation. In adult mice, the visceromotor response to VC TRPV1 stimulation was significantly decreased in dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons. Serum CORT, vaginal mast cell density, and colorectal and hind paw mechanical thresholds were significantly decreased in mice with early life stress. Zymosan administration largely attenuated the effects of early life stress on the vagina, as well as of adjacent visceral and distant somatic structures, driven in part by increased HPA axis activation.

- Somministrazione vaginale di un agente irritante (zymosan) a 8 e 10 gg di vita
- Valutazione in fase adulta dell'ipersensibilità vaginale e della densità di fibre nervose

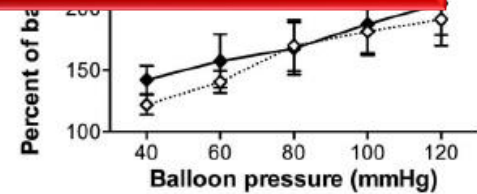
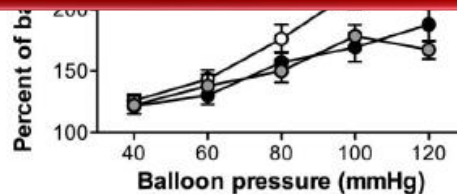
Insulto precoce è in grado di provocare un'ipersensibilità persistente

Research Paper

PAIN

Neonatal vaginal irritation results in long-term visceral and somatic hypersensitivity and increased hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis output in female mice

Angela N. Pierce, Zhen Zhang, Isabella M. Fuentes, Ruipeng Wang, Janelle M. Ryals, Julie A. Christianson*



Infanzia ed Adolescenza



ings of patients with positive

Prepubertal (n = 38)	Pubertal (n = 19)
n = 24	n = 7
10	—
3	—
2	1
—	4
9	1
—	1
n = 14	n = 12
11	—
1	11
2	—
—	1

reptococcus.

Common prepubertal vulvar conditions

Samantha E. Vilano^a and Cynthia L. Robbins^b

Characteristics of the pain observed in the focal vulvodynia syndrome (VVS)

Gilbert Donders ^{a,b,c,*}, Gert Bellen ^a

Medical Hypotheses 2012

Table 1

Demographic data and medical history of patients with focal provoked vulvodynia (VVS).

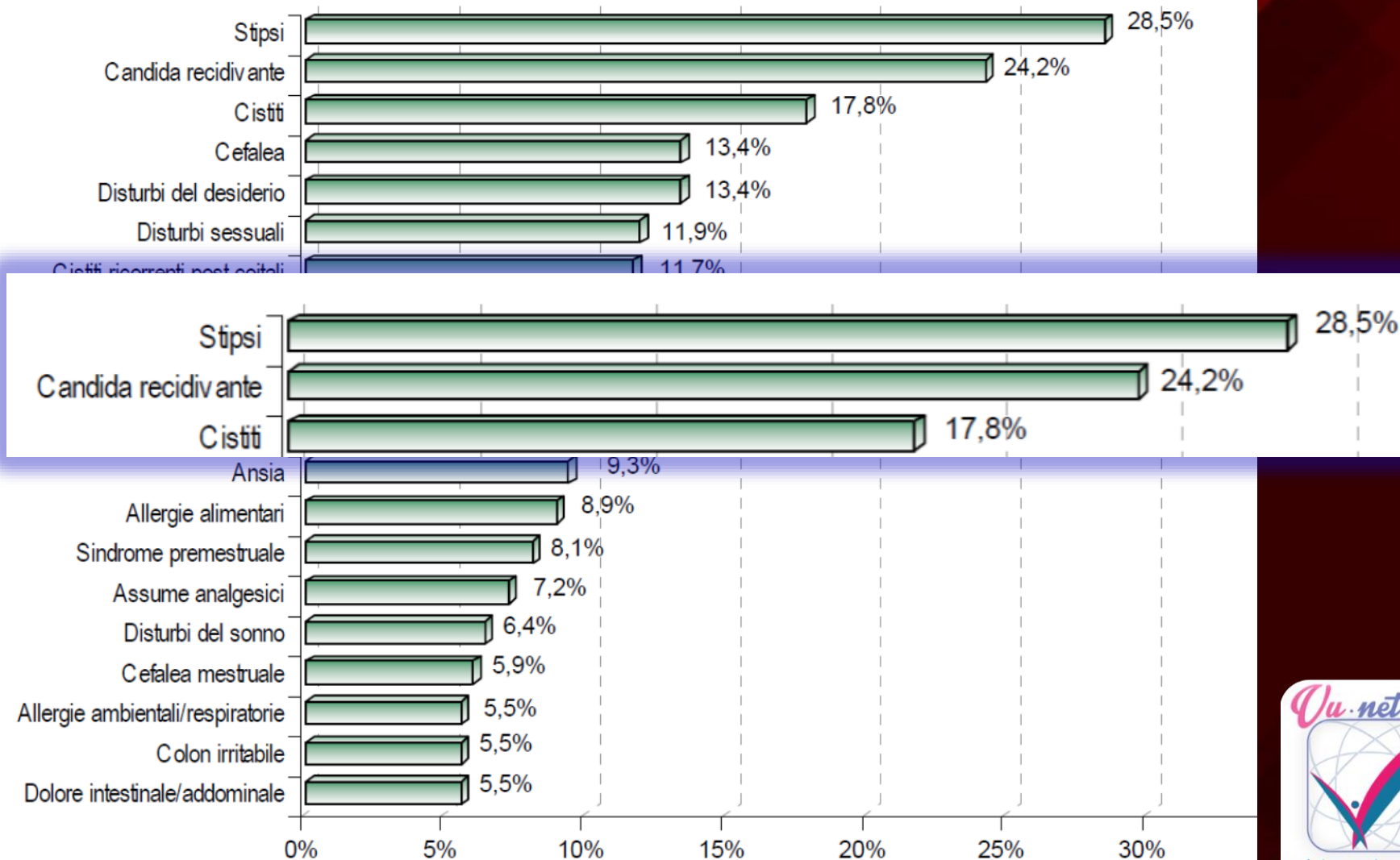
Demography of study population (<i>n</i> = 0)	Mean ± sd <i>N</i> (%)
Age (years)	27.39 ± 7.76
Parous	
Episiotomy	
Menarche	
<12 year	
12–13 year	
>13 year	
Age at first sex	18.5 ± 4.66
History of genital infection	
Vulvovaginal candidosis	23 (77%)
Herpes genitalis	3 (10%)
Bacterial vaginosis	2 (8%)
Chlamydia trachomatis	1 (3.3%)
Which therapy did you try before the present visit	
Oral tablet (amitryptiline)	
Special genital soap	
Cryotherapy / electrocoagulation / laser	
Introital hymenoplasty*	
Antimicrobial (bacteria/candida)	11
Local injection with cortic steroid	7
Local estriol cream	14
Local corticosteroids	15
Other external cream/oointment	14
Vaginal products	9
Total	28 (93%)

Rilevanza del legame
Infezioni e Vestibolodinia

Il progetto VU-NET

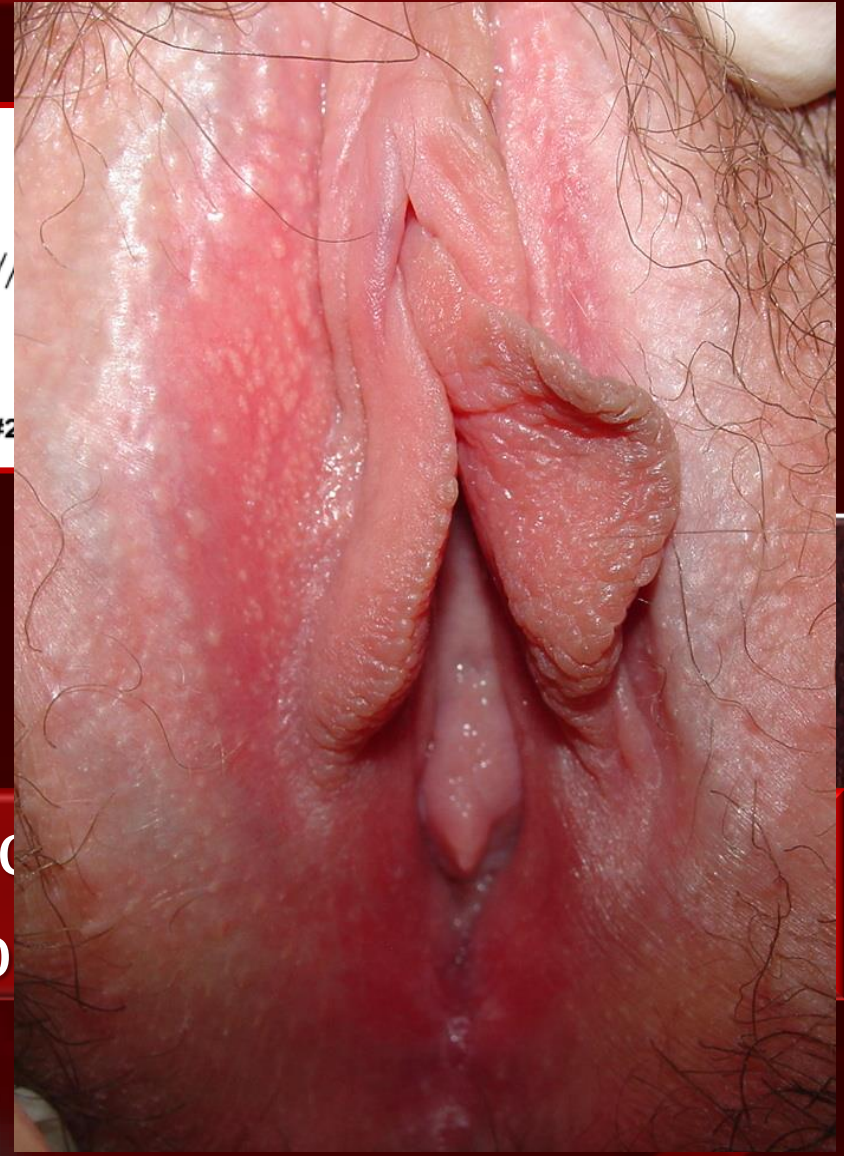
indagine epidemiologica multicentrica sul
dolore vulvare in Italia

471 pazienti



Nel grafico si riportano le patologie con frequenza relativa percentuale superiore al 5%.

Candidosi Ricorrente-Vaginiti ripetute e IVU



11
und #2

nte c
uro

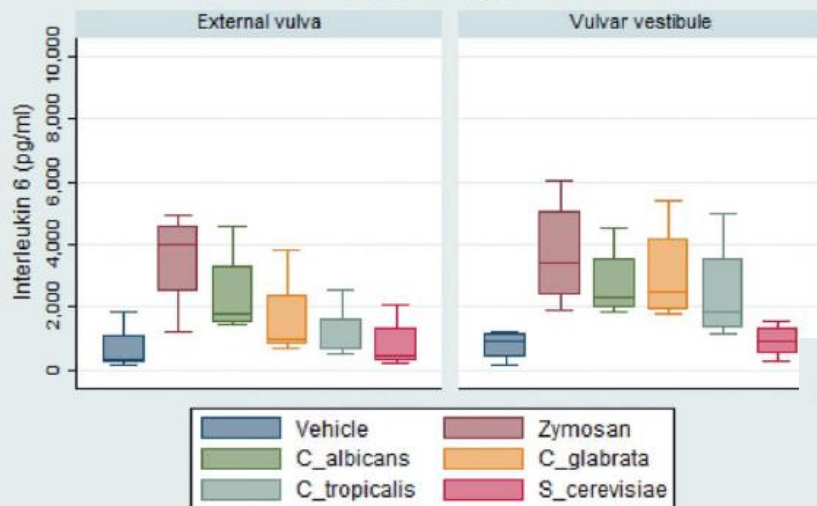
Pain in a

Site-specific mesenchymal control of inflammatory pain to yeast challenge in vulvodynia-afflicted and pain-free women

David C. Foster^{A,*}, Megan L. Falsetta^B, Collynn F. Woeller^B, Stephen J. Pollock^B, Kunchang Song^C

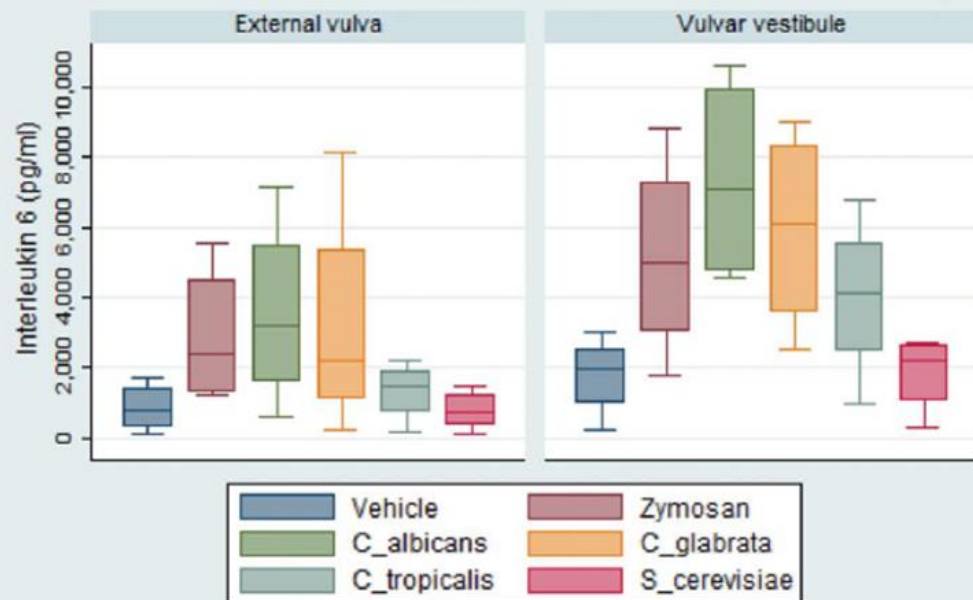
March 2015 • Volume 156 • Number 3

B Fibroblast IL-6 production by type of yeast stimulus Pain free controls



Stimolazione di fibroblasti
erivanti da prelievi vestibolari
in pz con VBD e Controlli

A Fibroblast IL-6 production by type of yeast stimulus LPV cases



Familiality analysis of provoked vestibulodynia treated by vestibulectomy supports genetic predisposition

Terry K. Morgan, MD, PhD; Kristina L. Allen-Brady, PhD; Martha A. Monson, MD; Catherine M. Leclair, MD; Howard T. Sharp, MD; Lisa A. Cannon-Albright, PhD

Am J Obstet Gynecol 2016

TABLE 1

Relative risk estimates for vestibulectomy in first-, second-, and third-degree relatives of 183 probands based on CPT codes

Relationship to proband	Number of relatives	Observed no. vestibulectomies	Expected no. vestibulectomies	Relative risk [95% CI]; <i>P</i> value
First-degree	498	5	0.25 ^a	20 [6.6–47]; <.0001
Second-degree	955	<5	-	4.5 [0.5–16]; .07
Third-degree	2194	<5	-	3.4 [1.2–8.8]; .03

CONCLUSION: Our data suggest that vestibulodynia treated by vestibulectomy identifies a candidate for genetic predisposition among distant relatives of probands.

Predisposizione Genetica

The vulval vestibular mucosa—morphological effects of oral contraceptives and menstrual cycle

U. Johannesson, B. Blomgren,* M. Hilliges,† E. Rylander and N. Bohm-Starke

British Journal of Dermatology 2007



A

1

Polymorphisms of the Androgen Receptor Gene and Hormonal Contraceptive Induced Provoked Vestibulodynia

Andrew T. Goldstein, MD,^{*†} Zoe R. Belkin, MS,^{*†} Jill M. Krapf, MD, MSc,[†] Weitao Song, PhD,[‡] Mohit Khara, MD, MBA, MPH,[‡] Sarah L. Jutrzonka, PhD,[‡] Noel N. Kim, PhD,[§] Lara J. Burrows, MD, MSc,^{*} and Irwin Goldstein, MD[†]

J Sex Med. 2014

ABSTRACT

Aim. Women who developed vestibulodynia (vulvar vestibulitis) while taking combined hormonal contraceptives (CHCs) and a control group of women were tested for the number of cytosine–adenine–guanine (CAG) repeats in the androgen receptor (AR) that is located on the X chromosome.

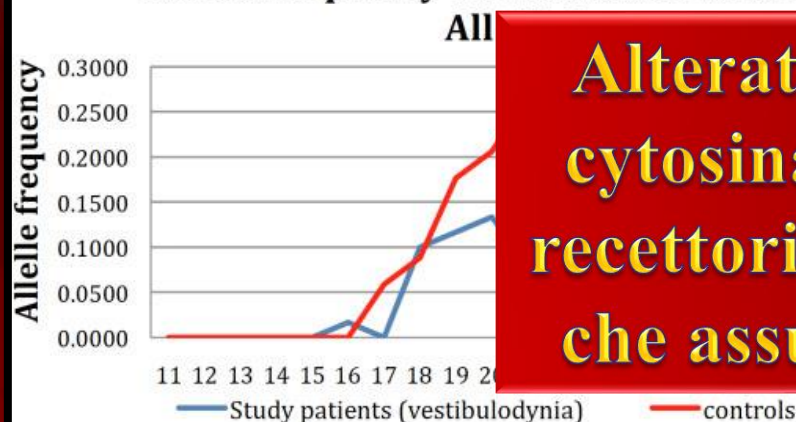
Study Design. DNA from 30 women who developed vestibulodynia while taking CHCs and a control group of women were tested for the number of cytosine–adenine–guanine (CAG) repeats in the AR. Free testosterone was tested in both groups.

Results. The mean number of CAG repeats in the AR was significantly higher in the study group (22.05 ± 2.98 vs. 20.61 ± 2.19, respectively; $P = 0.01$) compared with the control group. The mean calculated free testosterone was 0.189 ± 0.019 ng/dL in the study group and 0.189 ± 0.019 ng/dL in the control group, all of whom were taking drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol.

Conclusion. In the study cohort, women who developed vestibulodynia while taking CHCs had a higher number of CAG repeats in the AR than women who took the same type of CHC but did not develop vestibulodynia. We speculate that the risk of developing CHC-induced vestibulodynia may be due to lowered free testosterone combined with an inefficient AR that predisposes women to vestibular pain. Goldstein AT, Belkin ZR, Krapf JM, Song W, Khara M, Jutrzonka SL, Kim NN, Burrows LJ, and Goldstein I. Polymorphisms of the androgen receptor gene and hormonal contraceptive induced provoked vestibulodynia. J Sex Med **;**:**-**.

- Due gruppi di donne che assumono E-P :
- Gruppo con VBD
- Gruppo di controllo
- Valutazione eventuale polimorfismo per recettori degli androgeni

Allele Frequency vs. Number of CAG Repeats



Alterata ripetizione del trinucleotide citosina–adenina–guanina (CAG) nei recettori androgenici in donne con VBD che assumono E-P rispetto ai controlli

Table 4. 2015 Consensus Terminology and Classification of Persistent Vulvar Pain and Vulvodynia

- Musculoskeletal (eg, pelvic muscle overactivity,

Tono di base elevato

Table 3 PFM pressure measurement

VRP before the first MVC (cmH ₂ O)
PFM strength (mean of 3× MVC) (cmH ₂ O)
PFM endurance (10 sH ₂ O)

-Tono più alto
-Minore resistenza
-Scarso controllo

(n=35), SD)	<i>p</i> value between groups
)	0.02
6)	0.57
3.0)	0.21

**Alterata capacità
contrattile**

Pelvic floor muscle function in women with provoked vestibulodynia and asymptomatic controls

Ingrid Naess • Kari Bo

Int Urogynecol J-2015

Table 4. Pelvic floor muscle contractility in women with PVD and in asymptomatic controls

Conditions	Parameters	PVD (n = 56), mean $\pm$ SD	Control (n = 56), mean $\pm$ SD	P value
Maximal strength	maximal force (N)	2.35 $\pm$ 1.25	2.98 $\pm$ 1.55	.021
Speed of contraction	Contractions (n)	7.18 $\pm$ 1.65	9.64 $\pm$ 2.62	<.001
	slope of ascending curve (N/s)	3.58 $\pm$ 2.43	5.35 $\pm$ 3.84	.005
	slope of descending curve (N/s)	-2.82 $\pm$ 2.14	-3.22 $\pm$ 2.66	.346
Endurance	normalized area under force curve (% $\cdot$ s)	<u>1,816.27 $\pm$ 761.68</u>	<u>2,168.34 $\pm$ 830.93</u>	.028

Vulvodynia—Younger Age and Combined Therapies Associate With Significant Reduction in Self-Reported Pain

Anu P. Aalto, MD,^{1,2} Silja Vuoristo, BM,² Heidi Tuomaala, BM,² Riikka J. Niemi, MD,³ Synnöve M. Staff, MD, PhD,^{2,3} and Johanna U. Mäenpää, MD, PhD^{2,3}

J Low Genit Tract Dis 2017

Objectives:

pain disorder v
the efficacy of

(NRS) for pain

Materials and Methods:

VD patient col

and review of the medical records.

Results: We report here a statistically

Valutazione retrospettiva dell'efficacia terapeutica (numerical rating scale -NRS- for pain

TABLE 3. Different Treatment Modalities Used for VD Patients

TABLE 4. Overall Effect of Various VD Treatments on NRS score and the Most Frequent Treatment Combinations

Treatment	No. patients	NRS score before treatments, median (IQR)	NRS score after treatments	p
Combination of treatments ^a	70	8 (8–9)	4 (2–7)	<.001

^aMost
37 patients

**-Multimodalità strategia più efficace
-Vulvodinia in età più avanzata più
resistente al trattamento**

Local pain, n (%)

Generalized pain, n (%)

Laser treatment

Sacral neuromodulation

3 (4.3)

2 (2.9)

Generalized unprovoked vulvodynia; A retrospective study on the efficacy of treatment with amitriptyline, gabapentin or pregabalin

Heleen J. van Beekhuizen^{a,*}, Jessica Oost^b, Willem I. van der Meijden^c

Europ J Obst & Gynecol
and Reprod Biol 2018

Side effects amitriptyline

none	91
drowsiness	36
headache	3
abdominal pain	9
dry mouth	9
psychological disturbances	4
cardiovascular complaints	2
skin abnormalities	3
other	10
patients who stopped amitriptyline because of side effects	55 (31%)

Efficacy treatment overall

none	48 (30%)
temporary	17 (10%)
long lasting effect	107 (60%)
patients who stopped gabapentin because of side effects	3 (38%)

Side effects pregabalin

none	17
abdominal discomfort	2
drowsiness	1
dry mouth	1
headache	1
skin abnormalities	1
patients who stopped pregabalin because of side effects	4 (24%)

Amitrintilina e Dolore Vulvare



and the particular agent used. Amitriptyline is often used as a first-line medication. I start the patient on 10 to 25 mg nightly and increase that amount by 10 to 25 mg weekly, not to exceed 150 mg daily. A sample regimen might be 10 mg at bedtime for 1 week. If symptoms persist, increase the dose to 20 mg at bedtime for another week, and so on. Once a dose is established that provides relief, the patient should continue to take that amount nightly. Advise the patient not to discontinue the drug abruptly. Rather, it should be weaned.

3 gtt la sera (6 mg)

6 gtt la sera (12 mg)

10 gtt la sera (20 mg)

15 gtt la sera (30 mg)

childhood to old age.-Springer ed. 2017

Alpha Lipoic Acid Plus Omega-3 Fatty Acids for Vestibulodynia Associated With Painful Bladder Syndrome

Filippo Murina, MD;¹ Alessandra Graziottin, MD;² Raffaele Felice, MD;¹ Dania Gambini, MD²

J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2017;

Abstract

Objective: This study assessed the effectiveness of alpha lipoic acid (ALA) plus omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (n-3 PUFAs) in

Table 1. Patient demographics and disease characteristics

	Group A		Group B
	All patients (n = 84)	Amitriptyline plus ALA + n-3 PUFAs (n = 43)	Amitriptyline (n = 41)
Age (years) ^a	30.1 ± 7.7/29 (18 to 50)	30.0 ± 8.2/29 (18 to 50)	30.2 ± 7.3/29 (18 to 45)
Months from disease onset ^a	28.4 ± 19.4/24 (2 to 84)	28.4 ± 21.1/24 (2 to 84)	28.3 ± 17.7/24 (4 to 72)
<12	10 (11.9%)	6 (14.0%)	4 (9.8%)
12–24	28 (33.3%)	14 (32.5%)	14 (34.1%)
>24	46 (54.8%)	23 (53.5%)	23 (56.1%)
Amitriptyline (mg) ^a	21.7 ± 6.6/20 (12 to 30)	21.8 ± 6.8/20 (12 to 30)	21.6 ± 6.5/20 (12 to 30)

^aMean ± SD/median (minimum to maximum).

amitriptyline treatment was also associated with improvements in dyspareunia and pelvic floor muscle tone. The overall incidence of adverse events was low, and none led to treatment discontinuation.

Conclusions: The addition of ALA/n-3 PUFAs to amitriptyline treatment in patients with VBD/PBS appears to improve outcomes and may allow for a lower dosage of amitriptyline, which may lead to fewer adverse effects.

Alpha Lipoic Acid Plus Omega-3 Fatty Acids for Vestibulodynia Associated With Painful Bladder Syndrome

Filippo Murina, MD;¹ Alessandra Graziottin, MD;² Raffaele Felice, MD;¹ Dania Gambini, MD²

J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2017;

Figure 1. Relative change (%) in pain from baseline to visit two measured using a VAS pain score and the McGill Pain Questionnaire ($P < 0.001$)

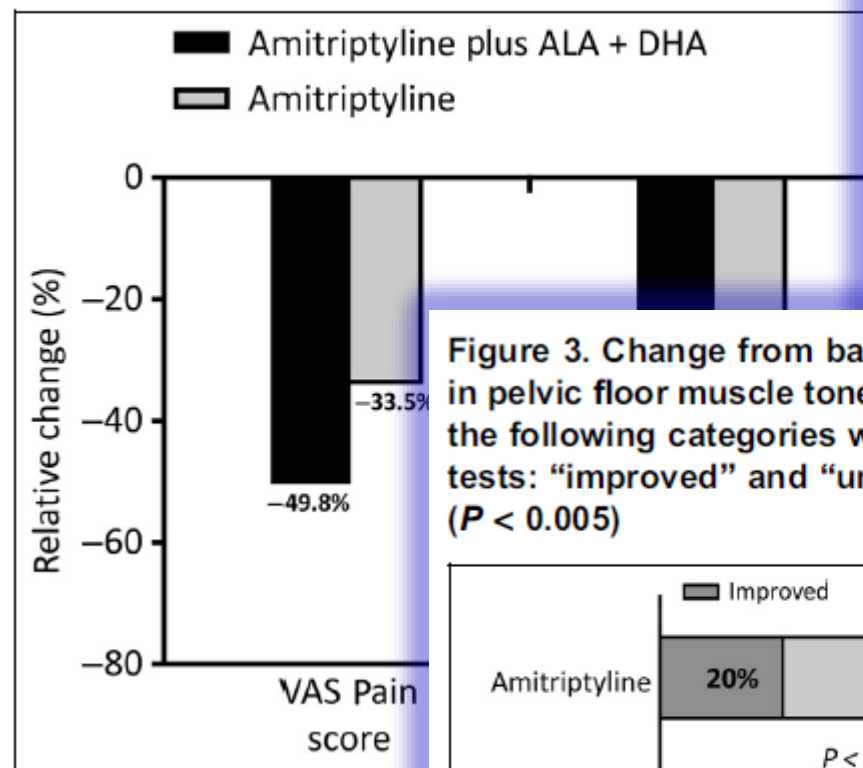


Figure 2. Change in pelvic dyspareunia from baseline to visit two; the following categories were considered for the two tests: “improved” and “unchanged/worsened” ($P < 0.03$)

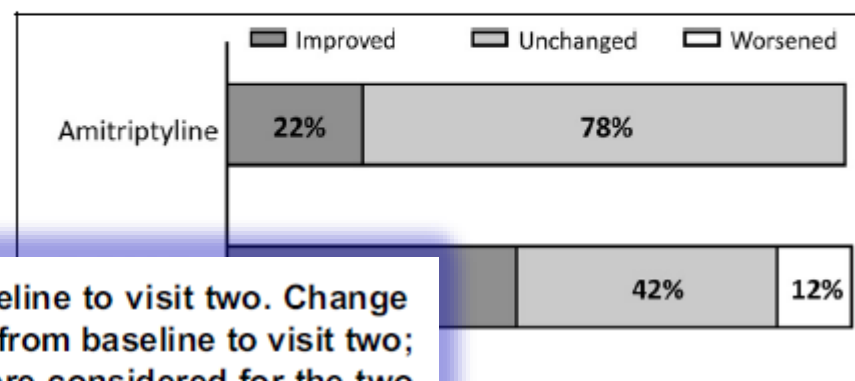
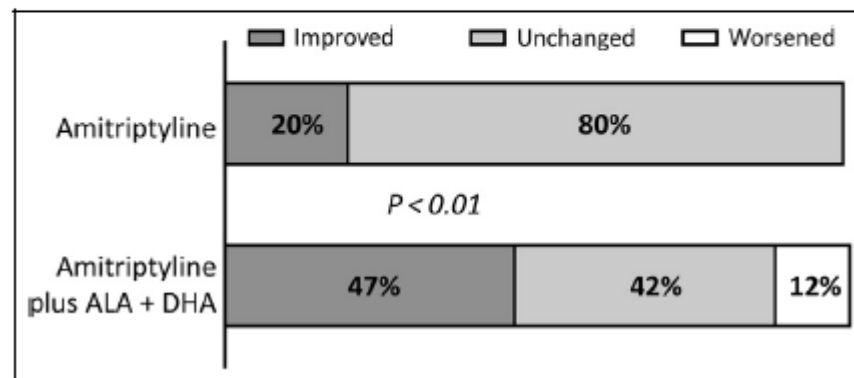


Figure 3. Change from baseline to visit two. Change in pelvic floor muscle tone from baseline to visit two; the following categories were considered for the two tests: “improved” and “unchanged/worsened” ($P < 0.005$)

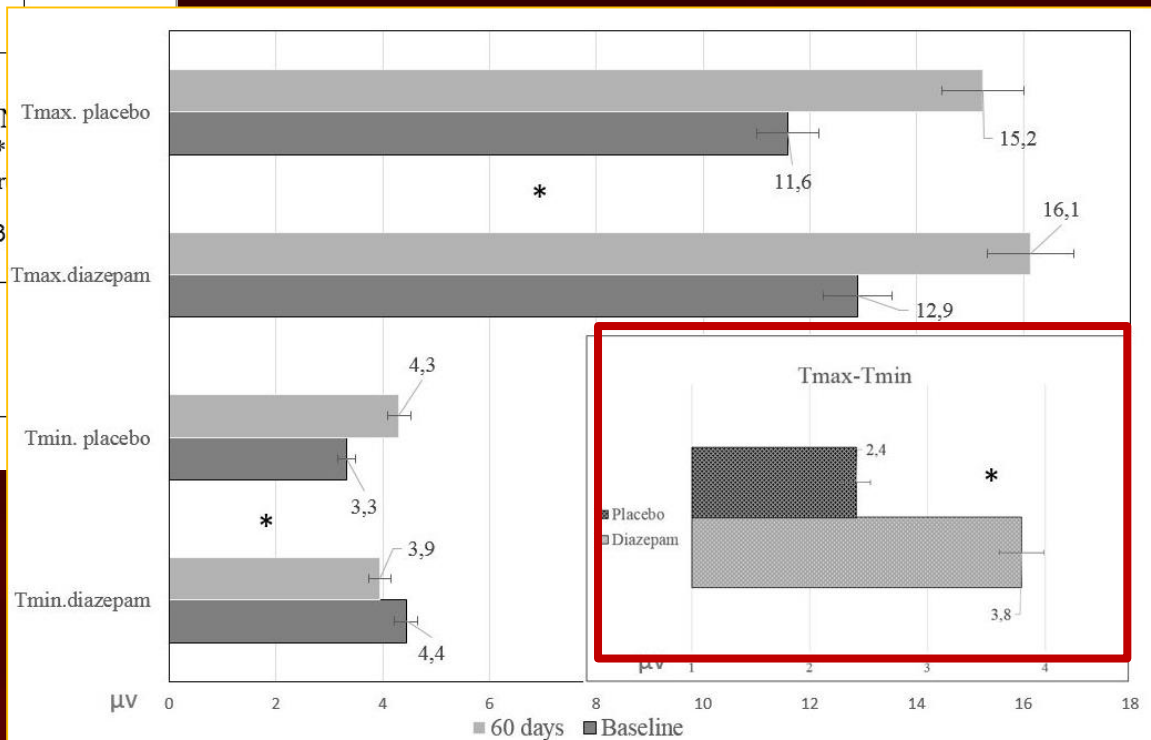
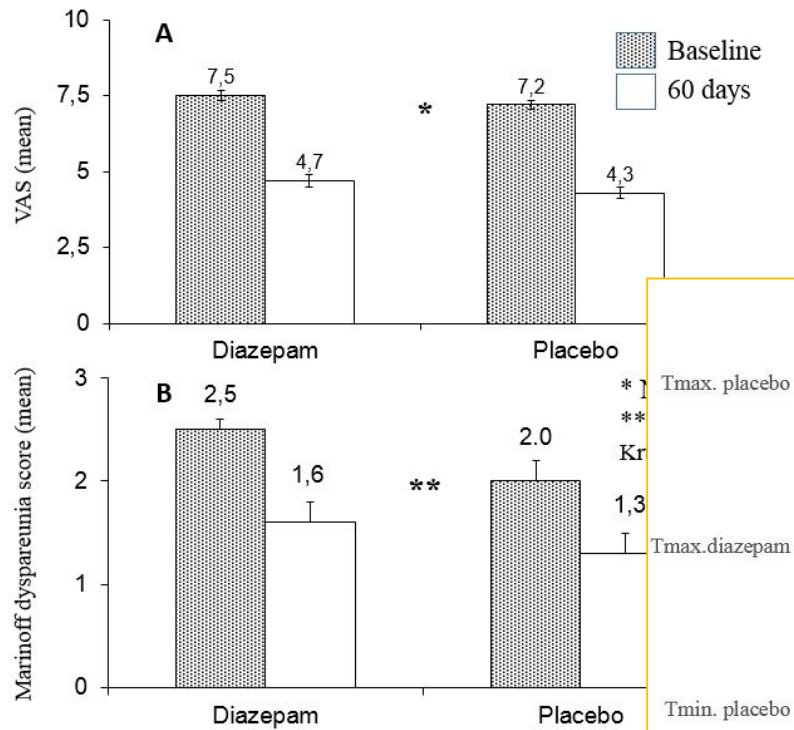


“The vast majority of studies showed that physical therapy modalities such as biofeedback, dilators, electrical stimulation, education, manual physical therapy, were effective for decreasing pain during intercourse and improving sexual function”

PVD. Physical therapy was shown to be a good adjunct to ves-

Vaginal diazepam plus transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation to treat vestibulodynia: a randomized controlled trial

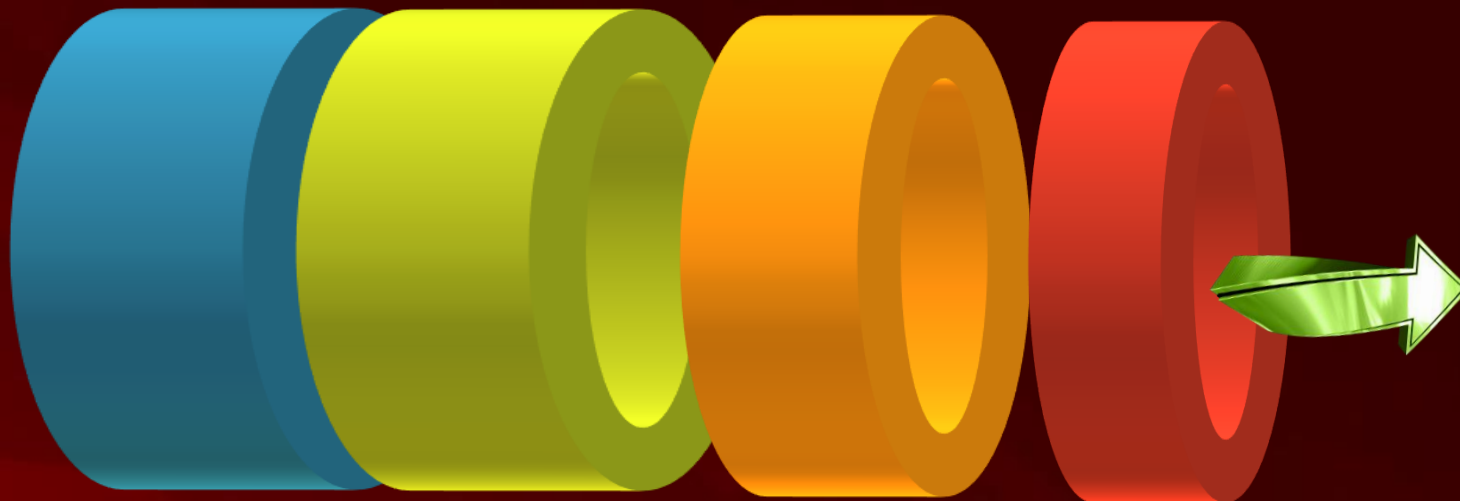
Filippo Murina[✉], Raffaele Felice, Stefania Di Francesco, Silvia Oneda
Lower Genital Tract Disease Unit, V. Buzzi Hospital—University of Milan, Milan, Italy



Vulvodinie



Sommatoria di eventi che in modo sequenziale innesca un'alterata percezione del dolore con un peso differente nelle varie fasi di vita della donna



Infezioni

E-P

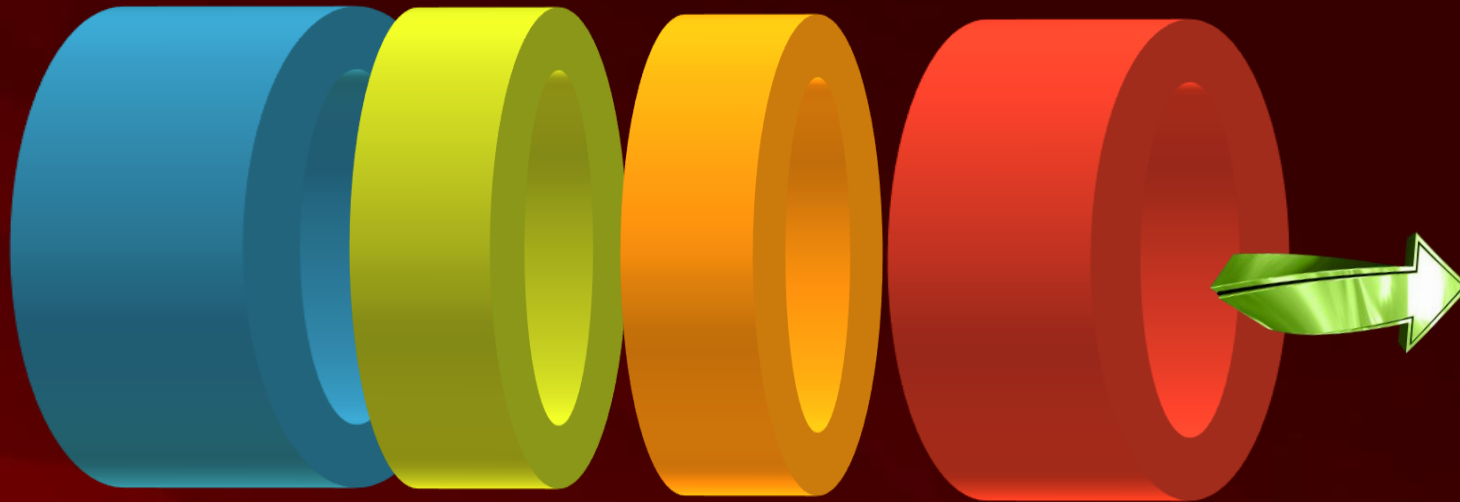
Genetica

Psico

Vulvodinie



Sommatoria di eventi che in modo sequenziale
innesca un'alterata percezione del dolore
con un peso differente nelle varie
fasi di vita della donna



Infezioni

E-P

Genetica

Psico





**Grazie per
l'attenzione!!!!**

R. Felice – F. Murina

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