



Topical Eliminates Sexual Side Effects Of Antidepressants In Women

Female Sexual Arousal Disorder

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2001 DEC 27 - ([NewsRx.com](#) & [NewsRx.net](#)) -- QualiLife Pharmaceuticals, Inc., announced the final results of its subset analysis of antidepressant effects on the efficacy study of Zestra for Women.

Zestra for Women is a topically applied, botanical feminine massage oil formulated to enhance female sexual pleasure, increase warmth, sensitivity & sensation, & facilitate arousal when applied to the clitoris, labia, and vaginal opening.

Zestra for Women is not a drug. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease and has not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (see *Women's Health Weekly*, Dec. 17, 2001).

The title of the study was: "The effect of antidepressant usage on the efficacy of Zestra for Women in women with, and without, female sexual arousal disorder," by D. Ferguson, C. Steidle, G. Singh, S. Alexander, K. Weihmiller, and M. Crosby. Antidepressants of the serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor class (SSRIs) are well known to decrease sexual desire, arousal, orgasms, and sexual pleasure. Drugs of this class include Prozac (Lilly), Luvox (Solvay), Zoloft (Pfizer), Paxil (Glaxo Smith Kline), Celexa (Forest), Desyrel (Mead-Johnson), and Serzone (Bristol Myers Squibb).

The use of SSRIs in normal and FSAD women had no effect on the responses to Zestra for Women in at-home use. Zestra for Women improved level of desire ($p < .001$), satisfaction with level of sexual arousal ($p < .05$), frequency of orgasm ($p < .05$), level of sexual arousal ($p < .01$), genital sensation ($p < .001$), sexual pleasure ($p < .01$), frequency of orgasms ($p < .05$), and enhancement of sexual experiences ($p < .01$) in normal and FSAD women regardless of SSRI usage.

"This study is a landmark in demonstrating the elimination of the undesirable sexual side effects of SSRIs in women," said Ferguson, a researcher in sexual dysfunction studies and consultant for QualiLife who managed the study. This article was prepared by Women's Health Weekly editors from staff and other reports.

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