



A New Non-Pharmacological Vacuum Therapy for Female Sexual Dysfunction

KEVIN L. BILLUPS

Clinical Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

LAURA BERMAN and JENNIFER BERMAN

*Directors, Center for Women's Urology and Sexual Medicine at the UCLA Medical Center,
Los Angeles, California, USA*

MICHAEL E. METZ and MARGARET E. GLENNON

Program in Human Sexuality, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

IRWIN GOLDSTEIN

Professor of Urology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Although Female Sexual Dysfunction (FSD) affects 40% of American women, there is no FDA-approved pharmaceutical therapy. The EROS-CTD™ (Clitoral Therapy Device, UroMetrics, Inc., St. Paul, MN) treatment is the first FDA cleared-to-market therapy for FSD. Clitoral engorgement is believed to play an important role in female sexual arousal and overall sexual satisfaction. The EROS-CTD is a small, battery-powered device designed to enhance clitoral engorgement, increase blood flow to the clitoris, and ultimately improve arousal in women with FSD. The objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of the EROS-CTD on sexual arousal (genital sensation, vaginal lubrication, ability to reach orgasm, and sexual satisfaction) in normal volunteers and women with FSD.

Clitoral engorgement plays an important role in female sexual arousal and overall sexual satisfaction. In normal females, sexual arousal results in smooth muscle relaxation and arterial vasodilatation within the clitoris. The resultant increase in blood flow and intracavernous pressure leads to tumescence and extrusion of the glans clitoridis (Diederichs, Lue, & Tanagho, 1991; Wen et al., 1998; Park et al., 1997).

Certain physical conditions that cause constriction in the vaginal and clitoral arteries may interfere with or prevent a woman from achieving clito-

Address correspondence to Kevin L. Billups, M.D., 7455 France Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435, USA.