**S1: Questions included in the CLOSER survey**

Vaginal discomfort was defined as dryness, itching, burning or soreness in the vagina, bleeding during intercourse, pain during urination or pain in the vagina in connection with touching and/or intercourse.

The questions shown below are those asked to the women in the survey; corresponding questions for men were rephrased accordingly. Not every question from the survey is included; questions gathering eligibility and demographic information are not shown. Depending on the answers given to certain questions, related questions may not have been relevant for every respondent.

**Part one: Talking about vaginal discomfort**

Did you tell your partner when you first stopped menstruating?

1. Yes
2. No

Did you tell your partner when you first experienced vaginal discomfort?

1. Yes
2. No

Why did you not tell your partner when you first experienced vaginal discomfort?

1. I was embarrassed
2. I felt like less of a woman
3. I was worried my partner would no longer be attracted to me
4. I was worried my partner would have an affair with another woman
5. I was worried my partner would reject me
6. I was worried my partner would feel rejected
7. I was worried that my partner would not understand
8. I was worried about the future of my sex life with my partner
9. I wasn’t expecting it to happen to me
10. It is a natural part of growing older so I do not bring it up
11. It’s women’s business and my partner would not want to know about it anyway
12. None of these

Which of the following effects do you worry that long term vaginal discomfort may result in?

1. That my partner will no longer be attracted to me
2. That my partner will have an affair with another woman
3. That my partner and I have no future sex life
4. That my vaginal discomfort will never go away and will have a long term effect on my relationship
5. None of these

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how you feel when it comes to speaking to your partner about vaginal discomfort?

1. I do not think there is anything that can be done about it so I do not bring it up
2. It is a natural part of growing older so I do not bring it up
3. I don’t want to bring it up because the conversation ruins moments of intimacy
4. I would rather try self-treatment first and try and ease the symptoms before talking to my partner
5. I feel uncomfortable discussing it with my partner
6. I feel comfortable discussing it with my partner
7. I feel like my partner will no longer be attracted to me if we discuss the topic
8. As soon as I notice that I have developed new symptoms, I would speak to my partner

Levels of agreement

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don’t know

**Part two: Impact of vaginal discomfort on intimacy, relationships and women’s self-esteem**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding how vaginal discomfort has affected your relationship with your partner?

1. We stopped having sex altogether
2. We have sex less often
3. I feel emotionally distant from my partner
4. I feel isolated from my partner as he doesn’t understand what is happening to my body
5. My partner is sexually frustrated and I think he thinks about other women
6. Sex is less satisfying for my partner
7. Sex is less satisfying for me personally
8. I feel like my partner is no longer attracted to me
9. It has aggravated other sexual health issues for my partner (for example erectile dysfunction, loss of libido)
10. It puts me off having sex with my partner
11. It has caused a big problem for our sex life

Levels of agreement

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don’t know

Do you ever avoid being intimate with your partner because of vaginal discomfort?

1. Yes — always
2. Yes — sometimes
3. No — never

For which of the following reasons, if any, do you avoid being intimate with your partner because of vaginal discomfort?

1. I am embarrassed
2. I feel like I am not good enough for my partner
3. I feel less attractive
4. I worry that my partner will reject me
5. I worry that sex will be painful for me
6. I worry that sex will not be satisfying for my partner
7. I worry that sex will not be satisfying for me
8. I worry that my partner will not understand what is happening to my body
9. I worry my partner will think I am making it up to avoid having sex
10. I worry my partner will feel hurt / rejected
11. I worry that it may aggravate other sexual related issues for my partner (for example Erectile Dysfunction, loss of libido)
12. I have lost my sex drive (libido)
13. My partner has lost his sex drive (libido)
14. Sex is painful
15. None of these
16. Don’t know

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to how vaginal discomfort has impacted you as a woman?

1. Vaginal discomfort has led to the end of sex as I know it
2. I feel upset that my body does not work as it did anymore
3. When I think about my sex life now I feel depressed
4. I have lost confidence in myself as a sexual partner
5. When I think about my sex life, I feel like less of a woman
6. I worry about the future of my sex life
7. When I think about my sex life I feel guilty
8. I don’t feel sexually attractive anymore
9. I feel I have lost my ‘youth’
10. It makes me feel old
11. It makes me feel lonely

Level of agreement

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don’t know

**Part three: Talking about vaginal discomfort**

To what extent are you likely or unlikely to discuss vaginal discomfort with each of the following people?

1. Your partner
2. Your doctor
3. Your pharmacy
4. Your friends
5. You mother or father
6. Your sister or brother

Level of extent

1. Very likely
2. Quite likely
3. Neither likely nor unlikely
4. Quite unlikely
5. Very unlikely
6. Not applicable

**Part four: Impact of vaginal estrogen treatment on intimacy, relationships and women’s self-esteem**

Which of the following have you used to treat your symptoms of vaginal discomfort?

* + 1. Lubricating gels and creams
    2. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) oral tablets and patches
    3. Vaginal hormone creams
    4. Vaginal hormone tablets
    5. Vaginal hormone ring
    6. Mineral / vitamin supplements
    7. Other
    8. None of the above — I have not used anything to treat my symptoms of vaginal discomfort

How did you find out about the treatment you have used for vaginal discomfort?

1. Your doctor
2. Your pharmacy
3. Your friends
4. Your partner
5. Your own research
6. Your family members
7. Other

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding how the treatments you have used for vaginal discomforthave affected your relationship with your partner?

1. Our sex life has improved
2. We have sex more often
3. Sex is less painful
4. I feel we have become closer and less isolated from each other
5. Sex is more satisfying for my partner
6. Sex is more satisfying for me personally
7. I look forward to having sex
8. I feel my partner is more attracted to me

Level of agreement

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don’t know

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to how the treatmentsyou have used forvaginal discomfort have impacted you as a woman?

1. My sex life has improved
2. I feel happy that my body is working again
3. When I think about my sex life now I feel more satisfied
4. I have more confidence in myself as a sexual partner
5. When I think about my sex life I feel like more of a woman
6. I am optimistic about the future of my sex life
7. When I think about my sex life I no longer feel guilty
8. I now feel sexually attractive again
9. I feel I have regained my ‘youth’
10. It makes me feel rejuvenated
11. It makes me feel more connected to my partner

Level of agreement

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don’t know

Are you currently using an estrogen vaginal tablet to treat your vaginal discomfort? *Estrogen vaginal tablets are placed directly into the vagina to help replenish estrogen lost due to menopause.*

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know

Which of the following do you think are the key benefits of using estrogen vaginal tablets?

1. Convenience — I don’t need to wash and then reuse the applicator; I just dispose of it after use
2. It delivers treatment directly to the vagina with an exact dose
3. It is easy to use, with a clean application that does not leak
4. It effectively treats my vaginal discomfort
5. None of these

Would you recommend estrogen vaginal tablets to friends or family members who experience vaginal discomfort?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

**Part five: Symptoms and impact of the menopause**

Which of the following symptoms did you experience during and after the menopause?

1. Vaginal Dryness
2. Vaginal Soreness
3. Vaginal Itching
4. Vaginal Burning
5. Bleeding during intercourse
6. Pain during urination
7. Vaginal pain in connection with touching and/or intercourse
8. Hot flushes
9. Night sweats
10. Headaches
11. Mood swings
12. Fatigue
13. Weight gain
14. Disrupted sleep
15. Sagging, loss of elasticity in your skin
16. Joint pain
17. None of these
18. Don’t know

Thinking about your *symptoms* of the menopause, would you say the impact these had on you was:

1. As expected
2. Better than expected
3. Worse than expected

Thinking about the impact that the menopause had on the physical, intimate relationship you have with your partner, would you say the impact was:

1. As expected
2. Better than expected
3. Worse than expected

Thinking about the impact that the menopause had on the emotional relationship you have with your partner, would you say the impact was:

[Single response only allowed]

1. As expected
2. Better than expected
3. Worse than expected

**Part six: Information about the menopause**

Do you think that there is enough information available about the symptoms and treatment of vaginal discomfort?

1. Yes, more than enough information
2. Yes, just enough information
3. No, not enough information

From which, if any, of the following sources have or would you obtain information to understand your symptoms and/or treatment options for vaginal discomfort? Please choose all that apply.

* + 1. Medical websites
    2. Blogs
    3. Women’s health sites
    4. Menopause websites
    5. Magazines
    6. Printed information in the doctor’s office
    7. Parents
    8. Siblings
    9. Friends
    10. Your doctor
    11. Your pharmacy
    12. Your gynaecologist
    13. None of these