



# WOMEN'S HEALTH

## Helping Heal Intimacy Issues

(NAPSA)—There may be new ways to help women increase the quality of their health, intimate relationships and life.

That's significant because while being intimate with a loved one may seem natural, many women suffer from female sexual dysfunctions that can inhibit sexual intimacy and pleasure. In fact, the problem is so prevalent that *The Journal of the American Medical Association* has reported that 43 percent of women from ages 18 to 59 experience some form of sexual dysfunction.

Doctors initially thought that sexual dysfunction disorders originated purely from psychological causes and treated them accordingly. However, it is now believed that there is also a physical/organic underpinning to many sexual problems that could be alleviated with medical treatment and drug therapy. Thus, the development of pharmaceutical products that can help treat FSD could be a significant medical advance.

Much FSD research and drug development has been done by VIVUS, Inc., a Mountain View, California company which specializes in products to improve quality of life for men and women with a focus on sexual dysfunction.

The company is developing a topical product called ALISTA™ to help women overcome Sexual Arousal Disorder, a major subcategory of Female Sexual Dysfunction.

ALISTA is currently being rigorously assessed in clinical trials to verify the efficacy and safety of the drug. ALISTA's active ingredient, alprostadil, is a synthetic version of a naturally occurring vasodilating agent found in the



**A new product being tested may help improve women's sexual health.**

body. The uniqueness of this product is that it only remains in the body for a very short period of time; in addition, it does not produce the adverse side effects of testosterone-based treatments, making it a safer choice (testosterone is being developed by a number of companies to treat another type of female sexual dysfunction).

During and after treatment in the first clinical trial, women were questioned on such topics as level of sexual arousal, patient satisfaction with level of arousal and level of sexual satisfaction to gauge whether the drug helped them and the extent to which it helped them. Their responses were favorable. Data from this ALISTA trial was presented at the May 2002 American Urological Association meeting.

To find out more about ALISTA and VIVUS, visit the Vivus Web site at [www.VIVUS.com](http://www.VIVUS.com). Vivus is traded on the NASDAQ market under the ticker symbol VVUS.