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Effects of hormone treatment on sexual functioning in postmenopausal women

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2008

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Nijland, E. A. (2008). *Effects of hormone treatment on sexual functioning in postmenopausal women: pharmacological intervention and female sexuality*. [s.n.].

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Effects of hormone treatment
pharmacological intervention and
on sexual functioning
female sexuality: a complex,
in postmenopausal women
controversial clinical and social issue

Met dank aan: N.V. Organon, Oss, The Netherlands | Rugpoli Twente, Delden,
The Netherlands | BARC, Ghent, Belgium | GlaxoSmithKline, Zeist, The Netherlands

COVER DESIGN & LAY-OUT Noenus Design, Soest

PRINTED BY Print Partners Ipskamp

ISBN 978-90-367-3413-4

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RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

**Effects of hormone treatment
on sexual functioning
in postmenopausal women**

**pharmacological intervention and female sexuality:
a complex, controversial clinical and social issue**

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de
Medische Wetenschappen
aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
op gezag van de
Rector Magnificus, dr. F. Zwarts,
in het openbaar te verdedigen op
woensdag 14 mei 2008
om 13.15 uur

door

Esmé Aurelia Nijland
geboren op 19 juni 1970
te Haaksbergen

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Opgedragen aan Chetty ter Kuile

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INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE THESIS

The studies presented in this thesis have been conducted to investigate the effects of hormone therapy (HT) and tibolone on sexual function in postmenopausal women. The reason for initiating research into these effects has been the growing off-label use of tibolone by postmenopausal women experiencing sexual problems. Sufficient evidence for the effects of tibolone on sexual function and dysfunction in postmenopausal women is not available, but as tibolone does have some androgenic properties, the theory that it may therefore work as a weak androgen justifies pharmacological intervention in daily clinical practice. Thus, the main objective of this thesis has been to determine the effects of conventional hormone therapy (oestrogen and progesterone), and tibolone in particular, on sexual function in postmenopausal women with female sexual dysfunction (FSD).

All studies have been sponsored by N.V. Organon, Oss, The Netherlands. The co-authors of the presented articles have had full access to the data and data analysis.

