

Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder and Depression During the Menopausal Transition

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Disclosures

Neither I nor my spouse/partner has a relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest to disclose.



Depression and Anxiety Across the Female Reproductive Cycle



Premenstrual Mood Changes

- Majority of reproductive age women report unpleasant symptoms around the time of menstruation
 - Physical and psychological symptoms
 - "More emotional"
 - Minimal effect on functioning
- 2.5 million women affected annually



Prevalence of Premenstrual Conditions



100%=all women of childbearing age.

Haskett RF. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry*. 1987;11(2-3):129-135. Johnson SR, et al. *J Reprod Med*. 1988;33(4):340-346. Rivera-Tovar AD, Frank E. *Am J Psychiatry*. 1990;147(12):1634-1636. Ramcharan S, et al. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 1992;45(4):377-392.

Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS)

- Pattern of physical, emotional and behavioral symptoms occurring 1-2 weeks before menstruation
- Symptoms remit with the onset of menstruation
- 30-80% of women

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

- Significant in 13-18% of women
- Occurs cross-culturally

Halbreich U, et al. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2003;28 Suppl 3:1-23. Wittchen HU, Becker E, Lieb R, et al. *Psychol Med*. 2002;32:119-132.

www.mghcme.org

PMS Symptoms





PMDD - DSM-V Criteria

- Criterion A: in most menstrual cycles during the past year, at least 5 of 11 symptoms (including at least 1 of the first 4 listed) were present:
 - Markedly depressed mood, hopelessness, or self-deprecating thoughts
 - Marked anxiety, tension, feelings of being "keyed up" or "on edge"
 - Marked affective lability
 - Persistent/marked anger or irritability or interpersonal conflicts
 - Decreased interest in usual activities
 - Subjective sense of difficulty in concentrating
 - Lethargy, easy fatigability, or marked lack of energy
 - Marked change in appetite, overeating, or specific food cravings
 - Hypersomnia or insomnia
 - A subjective sense of being overwhelmed or out of control
 - Other physical symptoms, such as breast tenderness or swelling, headaches, joint or muscle pain, a sensation of bloating, or weight gain
- The symptoms must have been present for most of the time during the last week of the luteal phase, begun to remit within a few days of the onset of menstrual flow, and absent in the week after menses



DSM-V Criteria

- Criterion B is that the symptoms must be severe enough to <u>interfere significantly with social</u>, occupational, sexual, or scholastic <u>functioning</u>.
- Criterion C is that the symptoms must be discretely related to the menstrual cycle and must <u>not merely represent an</u> <u>exacerbation of the symptoms of another disorder</u>, such as major depressive disorder, panic disorder, dysthymic disorder, or a personality disorder.
- Criterion D is that criteria A, B, and C must be confirmed by prospective daily ratings during at least <u>2 consecutive</u> symptomatic menstrual cycles. The diagnosis may be made provisionally before this confirmation.



Premenstrual Exacerbation (PME)

- Mood disorders can worsen premenstrually
- PMDD vs. PME
- 40% of women screened for PMDD have an underlying mood disorder with PME
- Charting to determine cyclicity of symptoms

Bailey & Cohen. J Women's Health Gender Based Med. 1999;8(9):1181.



Prospective Rating Chart – Daily Record of Severity of Problems DRSP

Borenstein JE, Dean BB, Yonkers KA, Endicott J. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2007;109(5):1068-1075.

Endicott J, Nee J, Harrison W. Arch Women's Ment Health. 2006;9(1):41-49.

DAILY RECORD OF SEVERITY OF PROBLEMS

Please print and use as many sheets as you need for at Norme or Initials least two FULL months of ratings.

Each evening note the degree to which you experienced each of the problems listed below. Put an "x" in the box which corresponds to the sevenity: 1 - not at all, 2 - minimal, 3 - mild, 4 - moderate, 5 - severe, 6 - extreme.

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Prospective Rating Chart – Prospective Record of the Severity of Menstruation PRISM

Many additional charts and apps:

Premenstrual Symptoms Screening Tool (PSST) Calendar of Premenstrual Experiences (COPE)

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Renske C. et al. J Affect Disord. 2016;189:43–53



Adapted from Solomon EP, Davis PW. Human Anatomy and Physiology. Philadelphia: Sanders College; 1982.

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

Risk Factors for PMDD and PMS

- Family history of PMS and $PMDD_{1'^2}$
- History of postpartum depression³
- Major depression past^{3,4} or future⁵
- Trauma history

1. van den Akker OB, et al. *Acta Genet Med Gemellol (Roma).* 1987;36(4):541-548. 2. Kendler KS, et al. *Psychol Med.* 1992;22(1):85-100. 3. Warner P, et al. *J Affect Disord.* 1991;23(1):9-23. 4. Bancroft J, et al. *Psychosom Med.* 1994;56(3):225-231. 5. Graze KK, et al. *Acta Psychiatr Scand.* 1990;81(2):201-205. 6. Perkonigg A, Yonkers KA, Pfister H, et al. *J Clin Psychiatry.* 2004;65:1314-1322.



PMS/PMDD Longitudinal Course

- Women seek treatment in their late 20s/early 30s
- Peaks around 30-39 years old¹
- Physical/mood symptoms stable from cycle to cycle²
- Diagnosis appears stable over time³
- <u>Chronic course</u> although symptoms may improve during suppression of the ovarian cycle (lactational amenorrhea, pregnancy, post-menopause)⁴

1Johnson. S. *Clin Obstet Gynecol.* 1987;30:369. 2Block. JA. *Am J Psychiat.* 1997;154:1741. 3Roca, C. et al. *J Clin Psychiatry.* 1999;60:763. 4Reid RL. Endotext [Internet]. MDText.com, Inc.; 2017-.



Diversity Research and PMDD

- Most studies do not involve diverse populations
- Unclear whether the prevalence varies by race
- Prevalence among Black women may be lower per one study¹
- Among non-white populations of US women (Asian, Latina, Black), perceived discrimination may be a risk factor²
- Rates of severe PMS and PMDD in East Asian women were lower than Western women³⁻⁴
 - 1. Pilver CE, et al. *Psychol Med*. 2011;41(8):1741-1750
 - 2. Pilver CE, et al. J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2011;20(6):923-931
 - 3. Takeda T, et al. Arch Womens Ment Health. 2006;9(4):209-212
 - 4. Schatz DB, et al. Int J Psychiatry Med. 2012;43(4):365-380



Pathophysiology

- No clear evidence of "hormonal dysregulation"
- Levels of progesterone and estradiol remain within normal range
- PMS/PMDD may represent an abnormal response to normal fluctuations of gonadal steroids



Hormonal Basis of PMDD

- Differential sensitivity to normal changes in estrogen and progesterone
- GnRH agonists are effective therapy
 - Eliminate hormonal fluctuation
 - PMS re-occurs with add-back therapy

GnRH = gonadotropin-releasing hormone.

Schmidt et al. *N Engl J Med.* 1998;338:209.



Hormonal Basis of PMDD



Schmidt PJ, Martinez PE, Nieman LK, et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2017;174:980-989.



Pathophysiology

Role of gamma amino-butyric acid (GABA)

Allopregnanolone enhances effects of GABA, acts as an anxiolytic

Paradoxical effect of allopregnanolone mediated via the GABA-A receptor => neg mood symptoms¹ PMDD = greater ALLO/prog ratio vs. controls in luteal phase²

Treatment with ALLO antagonist during the luteal phase reduced PMDD scores on the DRSP³



Bäckström T, et al. *Prog Neurobiol*. 2014;113:88-94.
 Girdler SS, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2001;49(9):788-797.
 Bixo M, et al. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2017;80:46-55.

Pharmacologic Treatment

SSRIs are first line treatment in patients without bipolar disorder

- fluoxetine
- sertraline
- controlled release paroxetine

Antidepressants with serotonergic activity

- venlafaxine
- duloxetine
- clomipramine

Sundblad et al. *Acta Psychiatr Scand*. 1992;85:39-47. Freeman et al. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2001;98:737-44. Ramos & Hara. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2009;12(8):1081-8.



Antidepressant Dosing

- Continuous
 - Steady dose throughout the month
- Intermittent
 - Luteal phase (day 14 to onset of menstruation)
- Symptom onset
 - Women with irregular cycles
- Luteal phase increase
 - Continuous with luteal phase "bump up"



SSRI Treatment Considerations

- Start with low dose
- If no response after first cycle, increase for second cycle and continue for 2-4 cycles
- If unsatisfactory response, consider alternative SSRI and/or change dosing
- If no response to 2 SSRIs, may try a 3rd or SNRI/TCA; if incomplete response, consider adjunctive symptom targeted treatment



Adjunctive Psychopharmacologic Treatment

- Benzodiazepines
 - Alprazolam mixed results
- Buspirone
 - Mixed results; benefit may be modest
- Gabapentin
 - Anecdotally helpful
- Quetiapine SR
 - Modest benefit
 - Small sample size

Schmidt PJ, Grover GN, Rubinow DR. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1993;50(6):467-473. Harrison WM, Endicott J, Nee J. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1990;47(3):270-275. Freeman EW. *CNS Drugs*. 2004;18(7):453-468.

MASSACHUSETTS Jackson C, Pearson B, Girdler S, et al. Hum Psychopharmacol. 2015;30(6):425-434.

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

Duration of Treatment in PMDD

- Optimal length of treatment is unclear
- Many women relapse when they stop treatment—as early as 1 to 2 cycles¹⁻⁴
- Some studies suggest 12 months of treatment, then stop and observe or switch to intermittent treatment¹⁻⁵
 - If using intermittent treatment, discontinue after a year
 - If symptoms recur, resume treatment until pregnancy or menopause
- Chronic treatment may be necessary

1.de la Gandara Martin JJ. *Actas Luso Esp Neurol Psiquiatr Cienc Afines*. 1997;25(4):235-242. 2. Pearlstein TB, Stone AB. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 1994;55(8):332-335.3. Elks ML. *South Med J*. 1993;86(5):503-507. 4. Freeman EW, et al. *Am J Psychiatry*. 1992;149(4):531-533. 5. Freeman EW, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2009;66(5):537-544.



Oral Contraceptives (OC)

- Evidence from double-blind, randomized, placebocontrolled trials supports use of some OCs for treatment of PMDD
- Progesterone only pill unlikely to be helpful¹⁻³
- OCs containing drospirenone may be more effective but depends on dosing
 - 24 active pill, 4 days placebo effective⁴
 - 21 active pill, 7 days placebo ineffective⁵

Ford O, et al. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2006;(4):CD003415. 2.Wyatt K, et al. *BMJ.* 2001;323:776-780
 Freeman E, et al. *JAMA*. 1990;264(3):349-353. 4. Marr J, Niknet al. *Contraception*. 2011;84(1):81-86.
 Freeman EW, et al. *J Womens Health Gend Based Med*. 2001;10(6):561-569.

OC Dosing

- Cyclic
- Continuous

Consecutive pill packs without a placebo

- Begin with cyclic dosing; move to continuous dosing if symptoms persist
- Comparison of dosing strategies is limited

Always consider medical risks of OCP



Freeman et al. *Contraception*. 2012;85(5): 437-445 Skovlund et al. *Am Jnl Psychiatry*. 2018;175(4): 336-342 Eisenlohr-Moul TA, et al. *Depress Anxiety*. 2017;34(10):908-917

Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Agonists

- Leuprolide depot injection every 1-3 months
- Buserelin intranasal spray daily
- PLUS Add-back of estrogen, progestin or both
- Down-regulate gonadotropin receptors in pituitary to create a hypogonadotropic state
- Treatment usually restricted to six months
- Long term effects are unknown

Mortola JF et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 1991; 72: 252A–252F Ripps BA et al. *J Reprod Med.* 2003;48:761–766. Wyatt et al. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol.* 2004; 111: 585-593 Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Agonists

- Double-Blind, placebo-controlled trials
 - Several show superiority of GnRH agonists over placebo^{1–8}
 - Some show GnRH agonists equal to placebo^{9,10}
 - Not first line
 - Consider after failure of non-pharmacologic agents, SSRIs and OCs

1. Brown CS, et al. *Obstet Gynecol.* 1994;84(5):779-786. 2. Freeman EW, et al. *Psychopharmacol Bull.* 1997;33(2):303-309. 3. Hammarback S, Backstrom T. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand.* 1988;67(2):159-166. 4. Hussain SY, et al. *Gynecol Endocrinol.* 1992;6(1):57-64. 5. Leather AT, et al. *Gynecol Endocrinol.* 1999;13(1):48-55. 6. Muse KN, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 1984;311(21):1345-1349. 7. Schmidt PJ, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 1998;338(4):209-216. 8. Sundstrom I, et al. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand.* 1999;78(10):891-899. 9. Helvacioglu A, et al. *J Reprod Med.* 1993;38(11):864-870. 10. West CP, Hillier H. *Hum Reprod.* 1994;9(6):1058-1063.



PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

Non-Pharmacologic Treatment

- Mood Charting
- Lifestyle Modification
 Diet, exercise, sleep
- Psychotherapy
- Nutritional Supplements
- CAM

Andrzej, M & Diana, J. *Maturitas*. 2006;55:S47-S54. Samadi, Z., et al. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res.* 2013;18:14–19.



Nutritional Supplements

- Calcium (1200 mg daily)
- Vitamin B6 (50-100 mg daily)
- Magnesium (200-460 mg daily)
- Vitamin E (400 IU daily)

Thys-Jacobs S et al. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 1998;179: 444–52. Chocano-Bedoya P et al. *The Am Jnl Clin Nutr.* 2011;93(5):1080-1086. Fathizadeh N et al. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res.* 2010;15:401-5. Shobeiri et al. *Obstetrics & Gynecology Science*, 2018;*60*:100–105.

Summary

- Premenstrual symptoms are common.
- A smaller percentage of women experience severe physical and emotional symptoms that interfere with their ability to function.
- Screening for these symptoms is important as it may lead to treatments that can be beneficial.
- The etiology is unclear but data are accumulating.
- Treatments can be non-pharmacologic or pharmacologic.
 - Hormonal or psychotropic
 - SSRIs/SNRIs are first line
- More research is needed.



MENOPAUSE

www.mghcme.org

What is Menopause?

- 12 months without menses
 - 5-6 years lead up
- Menopausal transition—endocrinologic, somatic, psychological changes
- Average age is 51 (lower for smokers)
 - Most women ages 42-55
 - Pemature menopause if before age 40
 - Oophorectomy can be a cause of early menopause
- Severity, frequency and variety of symptoms vary widely



Hormonal Changes



https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/

15224-menopause-perimenopause-and-postmenopause



www.mghcme.org

Symptoms

- Hot flashes
- Vaginal dryness
- Depression/anxiety
- Osteopenia/osteoporosis
- Sleep changes
- Fatigue
- Concentration difficulty



Perimenopausal Depression

- Perimenopause is a time of increased risk for the development of depressive symptoms and major depressive episodes
- 45–68% of women experience clinically significant mood symptoms

versus

- 28-31% premenopausal women
- 1/3 of women develop index episode during menopause
- Higher rates in Hispanic women 2.45- times higher risk of developing depression in early perimenopause



Maki PM, et al. *Menopause*. 2018;25:1069-1085. Schmidt PJ, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015;72:714-26. Freeman EW, et al. *Gen Psychiatry*. 2006;63:375-82. Broomberger JT et al. *Am J Public Health* 2004; 94:1378–1385.

Diagnosis

- Factors to consider
 - Loss

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

- Life stressors
- Body changes
- Health changes
- Consider adjustment disorder, bereavement, minor depression, bipolar depression, psychological distress

Maki, PM, et al. *Menopause, 2018;25:*1069-1085.



Impact of Estradiol

- Withdrawal of E2 -> increase in depression among women with past perimenopausal depression that had remitted with E2 vs. those who continued E2 or those without histories of PMD¹
- Greater E2 fluctuation -> greater risk for depressive symptoms²
- Transdermal E2 effective at preventing depressive symptoms among perimenopausal and early postmenopausal women³

1. Gordon JL, et al. *Menopause*. 2016 Mar;23:257-66. 2. Schmidt PJ, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015;72:714-26. 3. Gordon JL, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2018;75:149-157.

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

Depression-Risks

- History of depression
 - Women without lifetime MDD = lower risk of developing MDD during midlife vs women with prior MDD (28% v. 59%)
- History of postpartum depression
- History of severe PMS
- Higher BMI
- Vasomotor symptoms
- Sleep problems
- Hysterectomy +/- oophorectomy

Eichling, P.S. and Sahni, J. *J Clin Sleep Med*, 2005; *1*(3), 291-300. Bromberger, JT, et al. *Psychol Med*. 2015;45:1653-64 Georgakis MK, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2016;6:1-12.

PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

1ASSACHUSETT9

Hot Flash

Sensation of warmth of the upper body Lasts 30 seconds – 5 minutes Accompanied palpitations, anxiety, dizziness May result in a cold sensation and/or chills Occurs daytime and/or night Can occur from perimenopause through postmenopause Reported as severe in 10-15% of women Night sweats = periods of heavy sweating at night related to hot flashes



Vasomotor Symptoms and Depression

- Hot flashes and night sweats have been associated with perimenopausal depression
- Women with moderate/severe depressive symptoms were twice as likely to report VMS vs. women with no/mild depressive symptoms
- Moderate to severe VMS = moderate to severe depression

Reed SD, et al. *Maturitas*. 2009;;62:306-10.

Worsley R, et al. J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2017;26:712-718.



Sleep

- Insomnia is highly correlated with depression
- Sleep disruption is the hallmark of menopause
- Nighttime vasomotor symptoms correlate with increased sleep fragmentation
 - Depression is more common in this group
- Sleep disordered breathing more common during menopause (weight gain, unknown endocrine reasons)
- Menopausal sleep disruption can exacerbate other conditions, i.e. circadian disorders and RLS

Ford DE, Kamerow DB. *JAMA*. 1989; 262(11):1479-84. Breslau N, Roth T, Rosenthal L, Andreski P. *Biol Psychiatry*. 1996; 39:411-8. Morphy H, Dunn KM, Lewis M, Boardman HF, Croft PR. *Sleep*. 2007; 30:274-80. Joffe H, et al. *Sleep*. 2013;36:1977-85. Eichling, P.S. and Sahni, J., *J Clin Sleep Med*, 2005; *1*, 291-300



Treatment

- Hormone replacement therapy
- Antidepressants
- Other psychotropics
- Non-pharmacologic treatment
- Complementary and alternative medications



Hormone Replacement Therapy

- May be effective in perimenopausal women
 Limited studies
- Mixed results in postmenopausal women
 - Several small RCTs have been negative
- Prevention of depression
 - Data incomplete; one positive study

Schmidt, P, et al. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2000;183(2):414-420. Soares CN, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2001; 58:529-534 Morrison MF, et al. *Biol Psychiatry* 2004; 55:406–412. Gordon JL, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry* 2018; 75:149-157.

Antidepressants

- SSRIs/SNRIs helpful
- Depression and vasomotor symptoms
 - Paroxetine is FDA approved for hot flashes
 - Fluoxetine, escitalopram, venlafaxine, desvenlafaxine also helpful
- SSRIs postmenopausal lower response vs premenopausal women (inconsistent finding)
- Venlafaxine, bupropion no difference pre and post

Thase ME, et al. *J Womens Health (Larchmt)* 2005; 14:609–616. Papakostas GI, et al. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 2007; 22:226–229. Vermeiden M, et al. *J Psychopharmacol* 2010; 24:497–502.



Other Psychotropics

- Gabapentin
 - Improvement in sleep and hot flashes
 - Dose 100-3600 mg
- Sleep meds
 - Zolpidem, eszopiclone improve sleep and hot flashes.
 Low dose TCAs like doxepin
- Clonidine
 - Improves hot flashes
- Armodafinil
 - Improves fatigue



Non-pharmacologic

- CBT^{1,2} potentially effective
- Yoga unstudied
- Acupuncture³ unstudied
- Exercise⁴ limited data

- 1. Brandon AR, et al. J Womens Health (Larchmt) 2013; 22:58-66.
- 2. Khoshbooii R, et al. Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences 2011; 5:991-995.
- 3. Feng, J., et al. *Medicine* 2019; 98(7), e14574.
- 4. Perez-Lopez FR, et al. *Maturitas* 2017; 106:38-47.



Complementary and Alternative Medicine

- Omega-3
 - Limited data
 - Potential benefit
- Vitex agnus-castus (Chasteberry)
 - Data are inconclusive
 - Potential benefit
- St. John's Wort
 - Physical symptoms > emotional symptoms
 - 13-15% reduction in the level of OCP
- Light therapy
 - Inconclusive



Cerqueira RO, et al. Arch Womens Ment Health. 2017;20:713-719. Verkaik S, et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2017;217:150-166. Jang SH, et al. BMC Complement Altern Med. 2014;14:11. Sohrabi N, et al. Complement Ther Med. 2013;21(3):141-146. Krasnik C, et al. Am Jnl of Obstetrics and Gyn. 2005;193:658-661.

Summary

- It is important to identify mood symptoms premenstrually and during the menopausal transition
- Menopausal symptoms other than mood (sleep, vasomotor) can significantly affect quality of life
- Symptoms are treatable with pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions

