oklahoma women's health collective

PAINFUL INTERCOURSE

10 questions to start the conversation

WELCOME

Open communication with your healthcare provider is one of the most important parts of receiving effective care. Your provider brings clinical expertise, but you bring the lived experience of your own body. When both perspectives are shared openly, it creates the best opportunity for thoughtful, personalized care.

Many people walk into an appointment with several things they want to discuss — symptoms they've noticed, questions about medications, or concerns about changes in their health. But once the appointment begins, it's very common to feel rushed, forget important questions, or become a little nervous. It's also common to leave the visit and suddenly remember something you wish you had asked.

That's completely normal.

The Top 10 Questions included in this guide are designed to help you start meaningful conversations with your provider. They are not meant to replace your own questions, but to give you a helpful starting point so you can feel more prepared, ask for clarification, and leave your appointment with a clearer understanding of your health and care plan.

Using prompts like these can help ensure that important topics are discussed and that you feel more confident participating in decisions about your health.

This resource is intended for educational and informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always consult a licensed healthcare provider regarding any medical concerns, symptoms, or decisions about your health. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay seeking care because of information contained in this resource.

Oklahoma Women's Health Collective

top 10 questions

PAINFUL INTERCOURSE

These questions are designed to help guide meaningful conversations and provide clarity during your visit with your provider

☑ Where exactly is the pain occurring–and what does that suggest?

☑ Does this sound more like dryness, tissue changes, or something else (like pelvic floor or internal pain)?

☑ Could this be related to vaginal or vulvar tissue changes from perimenopause/menopause?

☑ Am I showing signs of thinning, irritation, or decreased elasticity in the vaginal tissue?

☑ Could pelvic floor muscle tension or spasms be contributing to this pain?

☑ Are there conditions like vulvodynia, vestibulodynia, or other diagnoses we should consider?

☑ Would a physical exam help pinpoint the source of the pain?

☑ What are the best treatment options specifically for pain with penetration or friction?

☑ Would localized treatments (like vaginal estrogen or moisturizers) be appropriate for me?

☑ What can I do during intimacy to reduce discomfort while we're addressing the underlying cause?

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You Belong Here.