



What I learned at the FDA: Notes from a Rhetorical Critic

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proximately 50 patients with FSD or patient representatives attended the meeting. Proximately 30 patients or patient representatives provided input through the live poll. Their responses to the polling questions, in-person participants represented an age range (from below 30 to above 70), whereas the majority of web participants were in the 30-50 age range. About one-half of in-person participants and most web participants indicated they had symptoms for 10 years or less. Most in-person participants reported that they were diagnosed with FSD by a healthcare provider, while most web participants reported that they were self-diagnosed. Based on the meeting discussion, it appears that in-person participants received more specific care (e.g., from a specialist on sexual health) than is expected for the general population and they were more familiar with FSD treatments and other aspects of the condition. Some participants voluntarily disclosed that their travel to the meeting was funded by the organization. While participants may not fully represent the population living with FSD, their input reflects their experiences with its symptoms and treatments.

“Voice of the Patient”

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- “[I]t appears that in-person participants in general have received more specific care (e.g., from a specialist on sexual health) than is expected in the patient population and they were more familiar with FSD treatments and other aspects of drug development” (4).

My notes

- *Patient Victoria – discloses support by Veritas and other agents of Sprout. Was diagnosed with HSDD by Irwin Goldstein*
- *Patient Beverley – discloses support by Veritas. Discloses treatment by Goldstein. Uses Eventhescorespeak: “If I was a man . . . I’d have a drug and it would be covered.”*
- *Patient Katherine – discloses support by Vertias and Sprout. “I wouldn’t care about the side effects of a drug. I want to be the woman my husband married.”*

“Voice of the Patient”

- “Two participants commented on their experiences with the investigational therapy flibanserin.”
- “[These women] described an improvement in sexual desire within a few weeks of use, and described the benefits as having sexual feelings, initiating sex, and enjoying intimacy once again.”

My notes

- *Here everything is a symptom. The questions all row in the same direction. No one asks if women who don't reach orgasm with their male partners if they do reach orgasm when they masturbate, or if they are aroused by other men or by women, or if they have felt "tingling" while reading erotica. No one asks them if they really expected their libido in their 40's to match their libido in their 20's—or their desire for their husbands to match their desire for their boyfriends.*

Transcript

- “[My husband and I] don’t have any other stressors in our relationship; there are no issues in our life.”
- “[Women] described the . . . frustration, anxiety, and loss that they have experienced *because of their condition* [my italics]”

Thank you.

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