

December 19, 2016 at 11:10 pm

Intrarosa: The New FDA
Approved Medication
For Vaginal Health

Recently, our team at Mymediclique had the great opportunity to talk with Dr. Fernand Labrie, a brilliant researcher and the principal scientist behind Intrarosa, a new drug that was just approved by the FDA to treat painful intercourse in postmenopausal women. Intrarosa is essentially an intravaginal drug inactive by itself, used once a night at bedtime, that delivers the “pre” hormone Prasterone directly to the surrounding tissue, thus elevating the levels of both testosterone and estradiol, exclusively inside the vaginal cells, both sex steroids contributing to vaginal health. Prasterone is also known more commonly as DHEA.



Professor Fernand Labrie, M.D.

Dr. Labrie is an Emeritus Professor, has won numerous awards, such as the Order of Canada, and is considered one of the *leading Endocrinologists in the world*, which means he specializes in conditions related to hormones. He is also the CEO of Endoceutics, Inc., the company which recently has gained Intrarosa’s FDA approval. Intrarosa is FDA -approved for postmenopausal women. Postmenopausal women frequently suffer from atrophy, or thinning, of vaginal tissue, and it is most likely that this *atrophy is responsible for the pain associated with intercourse*. According to our discussion, *improvement may be felt within 2 weeks as observed in the clinical studies*.

DHEA was sold as a supplement for years in the US, so we asked Dr. Labrie if the same benefit would be seen with an oral supplement. “No, not really”, he said. To paraphrase, “the oral supplement does not yield the results observed with an intravaginal application, in which the surrounding tissue is directly exposed to this precursor of hormones from which both estrogen and testosterone are produced.” The only two adverse events noted, were vaginal discharge, an effect partly attributable to an increase in vaginal secretions due to treatment and a change in the Pap smear normally observed in women. Our understanding is that Intrarosa will be available in the US sometime in the Spring of 2017.

We would like to thank Dr Labrie and the team at Endoceutics, Inc, for giving us some great insight into this new drug that can potentially improve the quality of life of about 50% of postmenopausal women.