Lack of genetic evidence casts serious doubts on the existence of the G-spot

Study Summary

The complete absence of genetic contribution to the G-Spot, an allegedly highly sensitive area in the anterior wall of the vagina which when stimulated produces powerful orgasm, casts serious doubt on its existence, suggests a study by the Department of Twin Research to be published in the Journal of Sexual Medicine.

The investigators carried out this study by recruiting 1804 female volunteers from the TwinsUK registry aged 23-83 years. All completed questionnaires detailing their general sexual behavior and functioning, and a specific question on self-perception of the G-Spot. The researchers found no evidence for a genetic basis. This led to the conclusion that – given that all anatomical and physiological traits studied so far have been shown to be at least partially influenced by genes – the G-Spot does not exist and is more a fiction created by other factors e.g. an individual's own sexual and relationship satisfaction or self-report is an inadequate way to assess the G-Spot and researchers should in future focus more on ultrasound studies.

Quotations

These findings provide a substantial contribution to the current debate on the existence or not of the G-Spot. Andrea Burri MSc, Psychologist at King's College London and lead-author of the study says "*these findings have important implications not only future sexuality education and psychosexual treatment approaches where women who are not able to climax through vaginal penetration alone are less stigmatized and could finally end up feeling less inadequate or underachieving".*

Andrea Burri also adds: "*It's all about sexual variation. Some women can achieve orgasm via penetration, some can't. It is rather irresponsible to claim the existence of an entity that has never really been proven and pressurize women, but also men. Even if the G-Spot did exist – why not acknowledge that we are all individuals with different sexual preferences and dispositions?*".

Tim Spector, Director of the Twin Research Department and co-author of the study says: "This study shows the versatility of twin studies- they are usually used to show the effect of nature (genes) rather than nurture. We previously showed that women's ability to orgasm had a major genetic component. This study shows that unlike other traits we have studied the controversial G-spot has no genetic component and therefore probably doesn't exist.*"*

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

The paper "Genetic and Environmental Influences on self-reported G-spots in women: A twin study, will be published in the January 2010 issue of The Journal of Sexual Medicine.

The Department of Twin Research is funded by the Wellcome Trust. Dr Andrea Burri is funded by a Fellowship from Pfizer.

Further information
Emma Cullen, Public Relations Department, King's College London
Tel: 020 7848 4334 Email: pr@kcl.ac.uk

For **Professor Tim Spector**, Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, UK please contact the King's College London Press Office T) +44 (0) 20 7848 3202 E) tim.spector@kcl.ac.uk

For **Andrea Burri MSc**, Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, UK, E) andrea.burri@kcl.ac.uk

The Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology at King's College London has a database of 10,000 twins and studies a wide variety of diseases and traits and has lately expanded their research on human sexuality, leading to several high profile publications. The Department has published over 60 papers this year in major journals and has discovered over 200 genes for over 30 common diseases –ranging from osteoporosis, arthritis, melanoma and baldness. For more information and pdf-copies of the publications please phone: 020 7188 6765 or visit the website: www.twinsUK.ac.uk

King's College London
King's College London is the fourth oldest university in England with more than 13,700 undergraduates and nearly 5,600 graduate students in nine schools of study based at five London campuses. It is a member of the Russell Group: a coalition of the UK's major research-based universities. The College has had 24 of its subject-areas awarded the highest rating of 5* and 5 for research quality, demonstrating excellence at an international level, and it has recently received an excellent result in its audit by the Quality Assurance Agency.

King's has a particularly distinguished reputation in the humanities, law, international relations, medicine, nursing and the sciences, and has played a major role in many of the advances that have shaped modern life, such as the discovery of the structure of

DNA. It is the largest centre for the education of healthcare professionals in Europe and is home to five Medical Research Council Centres – more than any other university. King's is in the top group of UK universities for research earnings, with income from grants and contracts of more than £100 million, and has an annual turnover of more than £363 million.