



# The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

*Vice President, Practice Activities*  
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Atara Schimmel

Dear Ms. Schimmel:

This is such an urgent issue and we know that it is important to so many women who experience debilitating pelvic pain. We appreciate your efforts to move this conversation forward.

Like you, ACOG is very interested in providing all women, including those living with pelvic pain, and their physicians with up-to-date, evidence-based medical information. Like you, it often frustrates us that this seems like such a slow process. However, at the same time that we strive for the adoption of promising new treatments, we also must be careful to avoid making recommendations that could ultimately lead to unforeseen harm.

That's why our practice guidelines are heavily based upon published medical literature, mostly from peer-reviewed journals. This sort of research takes time. But it is essential that our recommendations, and the practice of medicine itself, reflect quality data and evidence. Anything less is, quite simply, dangerous and irresponsible.

At this point, there are not enough scientific trials or publications for us to form solid recommendations about pudendal neuralgia. But we are indeed awaiting these trials and their results. If you come across any, please feel free to send them to us, and rest assured that we, too, will continue to monitor the research literature for new data. Working as partner, we can provide women with pudendal neuralgia and other causes of chronic pelvic pain with the information they deserve and that will help them regain their quality of life.

Thank you for your efforts to bring this to the forefront of our attention. I know you are as anxious as we are for information that can move us toward a meaningful solution for you.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Zahn, MD  
Vice President, Practice Activities

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