Dear Alice,

Is the vagina more pleasurable than the clitoris?

Answer

Dear Reader,

While the difference between vaginal and clitoral sensations may be puzzling to some, the great news is that they both may generate pleasure! Before we get down and dirty, remember, just like a woman's fingerprints are unique, no two women's lady parts or preferences are the same. A woman may need to do some exploration (whether it's with or without a partner) before she knows whether vaginal or clitoral stimulation is more pleasurable to her.

First, please note the potential difference between sensitivity and pleasure. Biologically sensitive spots (indicated by the number of nerve endings) are usually connected to pleasure, but not always. Erogenous zones, areas on your body that give pleasure particularly to sexual stimulation, come in two types:

- **Primary erogenous zones** typically contain lots of nerve endings. They typically include the genitals, breasts, nipples, butt, perineum, anus, mouth, inner thighs, armpits, navel, neck, and ears.
- **Secondary erogenous zones** may be learned or experienced on any other part of the body. For example, a person may learn to go crazy when gently kissed on the back by a lover.

A primary erogenous zone may be immensely pleasurable for one person, but may be itchy, irritating, or even painful for another. On the other hand, areas with fewer nerve endings may derive much pleasure if it's that person's secondary erogenous zone. Now, here's more about the clitoris and vagina.

Small but mighty, a woman's clitoris is packed to the brim with nerve endings. In fact, a woman's clitoris is one of the most nerve rich areas of her body. For a biological comparison, imagine all of the nerve endings in the penis poured into an area as small as a pea. Given its monumental...
sensitivity, many women believe that the clitoris is more sensitive than the vagina. Whether a woman prefers stimulation through touch, the tongue, body pressure during vaginal sex, or a vibrator, there are many ways to score a home run. Again, sensitivity may or may not mean pleasure. Some women find direct, continuous stimulation of the clitoris as too much.

Some women find the vagina to be extremely sensitive as well. This is particularly true of the outer third of a woman's vagina, which has the most nerve endings out of the whole vaginal canal. Though it's less common, some women may find the sensations created by vaginal intercourse to be enough to produce the Big O.

While this information may be already earth shaking, additional news is that the vagina and clitoris may work together! The pea-sized clitoris may produce a titanic amount of pleasure the same time the vagina holds tons of nerve endings handy. Although nerve ending hot spots don't guarantee pleasure, they're great starting points in the pleasure puzzle. To discover what feels best (clitoris, vagina, or other body parts), women may either experiment alone or with a partner. When stimulation is the name of the game, there are lots of winning choices!

Alice!
Category:
Sexual & Reproductive Health [2]
Genital Wonderings [3]
Vulvas, Labias, Clitorises, and Vaginas [4]

Related questions

Females — Favorite sexual position? [5]
Difference between clitoral and vaginal orgasm [6]
How deep is the average vagina, and does it elongate when something's in it? [7]
Where is the clitoris? [8]
Violent orgasms? [9]
Orgasms by masturbation vs. intercourse [10]

Published date:
May 31, 1996
Last reviewed on:
Apr 02, 2015

Footer menu

Contact Alice!
- Content Use
- Media Inquiries
- Comments & Corrections

Syndication & Licensing
- Licensing Q&As
- Get Alice! on Your Website
Go Ask Alice! is not an emergency or instant response service.

If you are in an urgent situation, please visit our Emergency page to view a list of 24 hour support services and hotlines.

Source URL: https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/vagina-more-pleasurable-clitoris#comment-0

Links
[8] https://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/where-clitoris-0