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[Pain Med.](#) 2010 May;11(5):781-4. doi: 10.1111/j.1526-4637.2010.00823.x. Epub 2010 Mar 22.



Misdiagnosed chronic pelvic pain: pudendal neuralgia responding to a novel use of palmitoylethanolamide.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Pudendal neuralgia is a cause of chronic, disabling, and often intractable perineal pain presenting as burning, tearing, sharp shooting, foreign body sensation, and it is often associated with multiple, perplexing functional symptoms.

CASE REPORT: We report a case of a 40-year-old man presenting with chronic pelvic pain due to pudendal nerve entrapment and successfully treated with palmitoylethanolamide (PEA).

CONCLUSION: PEA may induce relief of neuropathic pain through an action upon receptors located on the nociceptive pathway as well as a more direct action on mast cells via an ALIA (autocoid local injury antagonism) mechanism. As recently demonstrated in animal models, the present case suggests that PEA could be a valuable pharmacological alternative to the most common drugs (anti-epileptics and antidepressants) used in the treatment of neuropathic pain.

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PMID: 20345619 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



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