

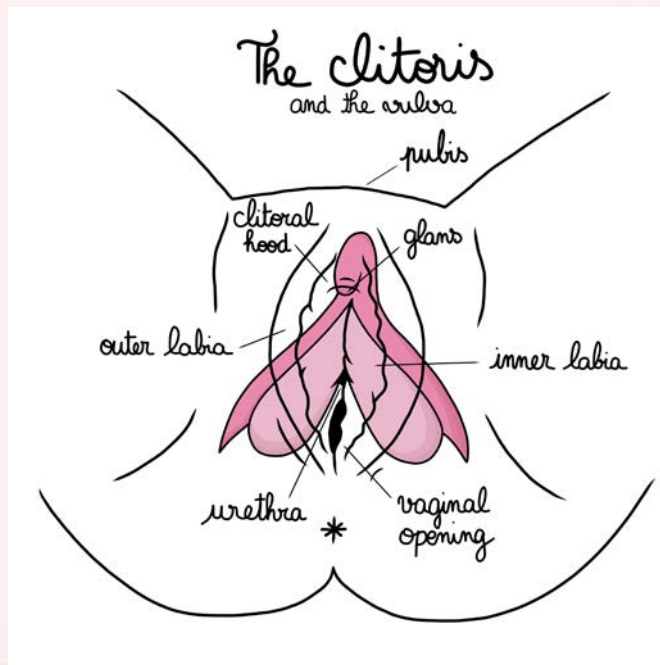
FIVE FACTS ABOUT THE CLITORIS

WHAT?

The clitoris is a female sex organ and an anatomical source of sexual pleasure. It is a small, sensitive organ located at the top of the vulva- above the urethra (where urine comes out). People with a clitoris can experience sexual pleasure through the stimulation of the clitoris. There is more research to be done but as far as we know it's sole purpose is to provide sexual pleasure.

The image below shows the full clitoris. Only the tip or glans of the clitoris is visible from the outside of the body. The rest of the clitoris sits internally and isn't visible to the naked eye with the rest of the organ being inside the body.

The clitoris contains external and internal components. It consists of the glans (external), the body and two crura or "legs" and two vestibular or clitoral bulbs. The other external component is a hood formed by the labia minora (inner lips)- this typically looks like a flap or fold of skin that covers the clitoris. The clitoris is unique in size, shape, colour and position and is diverse



WHEN?

The clitoris was first "discovered" in 1559 by the Italian anatomist Realdo Colombo. It is likely that the clitoris was known to humans long before this, as there are references to it in ancient Greek and Roman texts. However, these references were often inaccurate or incomplete. It was not until the 19th century that the clitoris was fully understood as an organ dedicated to female pleasure. Even then it was often dismissed or left out of mainstream knowledge.

It wasn't until 1998 when an Australian Urologist, Helen O'Connell, published research findings on the clitoris and it wasn't until 2005 when the anatomy of the clitoris was published in the Journal of Urology. O'Connell was compelled to carry out research after realising that all the medical texts she was studying from in the 1980's failed to mention the clitoris despite having full chapters on the function of the penis.

FIVE FACTS ABOUT THE CLITORIS

WHY?

The clitoris feels good to touch because it has a very high concentration of nerve endings. The glans of the clitoris, which is the visible part, contains around 10,000 nerve endings (published in 2023!). This is more than any other part of the body, including the penis.

The nerve endings in the clitoris are responsible for transmitting pleasurable sensations to the brain and more than 80% of people with a clitoris require clitoral stimulation (either on its own or alongside some kind of penetration) to reach orgasm. The clitoris is often located above the vagina and doesn't always get the touch or stimulation it needs from penetration only.

The amount of pleasure that a person feels when their clitoris is touched can vary depending on a number of factors, including their level of arousal, the type of stimulation, and their individual preferences. It is common for the glans of the clitoris to be too sensitive to receive direct touch. Feeling around the area or further down the vulva might be better for some



HOW?

The clitoris is made of erectile tissue-during the response to sexual arousal the bulbs fill with blood, which then becomes trapped, causing erection similar to what happens to a penis. Clitoris owners may notice that the glans and labia become swollen and look bigger when they are aroused- this is because the clitoris has become erect and there is additional blood flow to this area. Increased blood flow equal increased sensitivity and coupled with physical and psychological arousal this means that the clitoris and labia feel very good to touch and will often (but not always!) lead to orgasm.

There are many different ways to stimulate the clitoris and what feels good for one may not for the other. We have the option of creating our own unique clitoral user manual so go forth and explore and discover the beauty of the clitoris.

Here are some other reasons why the clitoris feels good to touch:

The clitoris is located in a strategic spot. It is close to the vaginal opening, which means that it can be stimulated during vaginal sex. (It's likely that the not actually proven to exist 'G-spot' is actually the clitoris being stimulated internally).

The clitoris is a very vascular organ. This means that it has a lot of blood flow, which makes it more sensitive to touch.

The clitoris is a muscle. This means that it can contract and expand, which can produce pleasurable sensations.

FIVE FACTS ABOUT THE CLITORIS

WHO?

All female mammals have a clitoris (alongside some birds & reptiles too!) The clitoris and penis are homologous parts which means they develop from the same origin. All embryos start out with the same group of cells & tissues. About 6 weeks into pregnancy certain hormonal cues occur and this determines if the tissue will grow larger to become a penis. If the cells are female they won't respond to these hormones and the organ will remain the smaller clitoris.

It's important to note that not all embryos are defined as solely male and female categories, nothing in life is this binary. The term for this is 'intersex' and you can find more information [here](#).

