Torino, Italy

### **VULVAR CANCER AWARENESS DAY**

What we explain to women: the great wall of vulva





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# Common barriers

#### Shame/fear

- "Intimate parts"
- Vulvovaginal diseases assumed often as "venereal diseases"=promiscuity
- Contagious?
- Malignancy?

#### Anatomical concepts

- Vulva is an unknown term for most women (and men)
- Idea of a "normal", standard vulva





# (Des)information





JOANNA TAYLOR tried it out (so you don't

I never thought I'd find myself knickers

off, spread-eagled, in the office of a man

I wonder, as Dr. Niekerk puts down his

carefully draws a dotted line across my

who isn't my doctor. "How did I get here?"

measuring tape, pulls out a felt-tip pen and

Joanna Taylor

inner labia.

between my legs, pen pois one thing: "You're not abr

In case you missed the me vulva beauty movement g now. Forget douches and beauty world is now floggi that promise to moisturize tighten, plump and even h just like your cheekbones) It appears the neverendin

"perfection" has finally reached our most private of parts, but... are we and our vulvas ready for it?

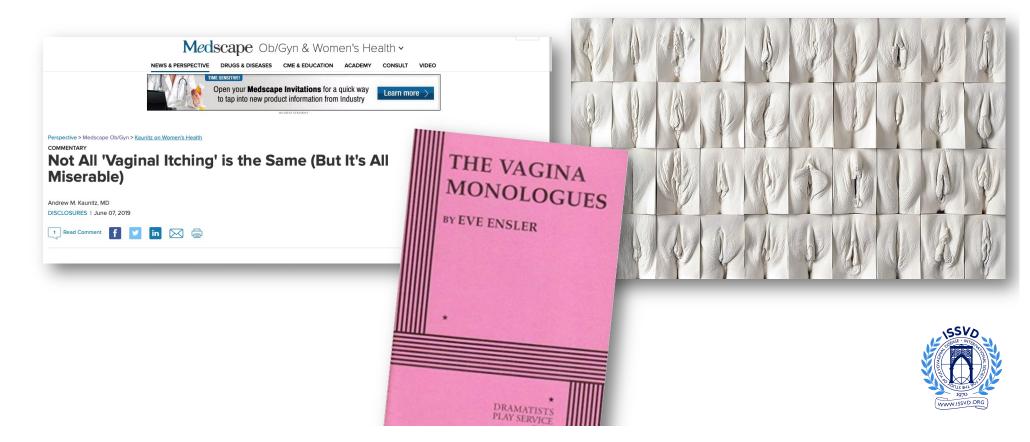
I wonder this as I find myself, (yet again there's a theme in this story) horizontal,



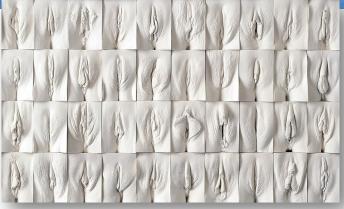
LIP SERVICE What is a designer vagina, how much does labiaplasty cost and which celebrities have had the vagina facelift procedure?



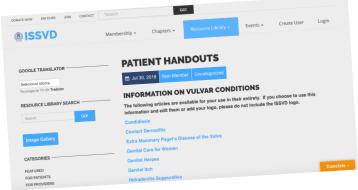
# (Des)information



# Resources



The Great Wall of Vagina - Jamie McCartney

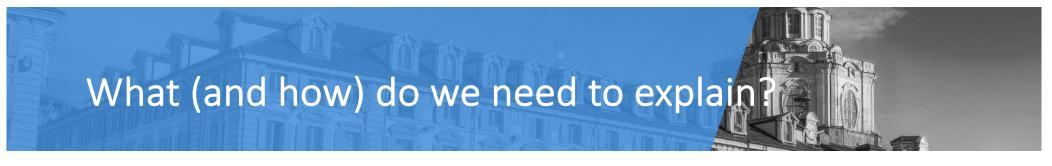


www.issvd.org





http://vulvovaginaldisorders.com



- Clear and adapted language
- Realistic
- Drawings, schemes, pictures, etc.
- Address some of the myths, even if not questioned:
  - HPV infections are common
  - HPV is not synonymous of promiscuity or infidelity
  - LS is not equal to vulvar cancer
- Motivate for follow-up without scaring

