Are thousands of women in agony...

because MALE doctors refuse to believe they have endometriosis?
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**Experts say her successful case, thought to be the first of its kind, could open the floodgates for similar stories to come.**

The diagnosis, which is medically termed fructose malabsorption, is known to be extremely rare and affects people with a genetic mutation. In some cases, this is present from birth while in others, it presents later in life. The condition means that the body cannot break down simple sugars, such as fructose, which means that the body is unable to absorb and utilise them.

In her own words, Dr. Melinda L. Jackson, a gastroenterologist at University of California San Diego Health, explains Fran, who was forced to give up her job, partly because of their lack of sympathy – and, in fact, I was dismissed. Fran became one of the first women to seek legal aid in the UK and her case, which was one of the worst cases they'd seen, was one of the most severe – and that it was stage 4 – the most severe – and that it was stage 4.

Fran has been diagnosed with endometriosis and is linked to the monthly cycle. Endometriosis is an inflammatory condition of the uterus that affects around 1 in 10 women. It is thought to be the leading cause of infertility in the UK, to diagnose the condition, women must undergo a surgical procedure called a laparoscopy, which involves the insertion of a thin, flexible tube (laparoscope) into the abdomen. The tube is passed through a small incision in the skin of the abdomen and is used to view the inside of the body, including the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

It involves a general anaesthetic and although relatively simple is a major operation. The condition is thought to be due to the presence of endometrial tissue in areas other than the uterus. These areas may include the bladder, bowel, and even the ovaries. The condition is often diagnosed during routine pelvic exams or during surgical procedures for other conditions such as appendicitis or ovarian cysts. In some cases, endometriosis can cause pain and infertility, and in rare cases, it can cause life-threatening complications.

**There is no cure for endometriosis – but treatment can manage and alleviate the symptoms. In some cases, this can include hormone therapy, such as birth control pills. Other non-drug therapies include surgery, medication, and herbal treatments.**

In Fran's case, it was 1983 and by the time she was diagnosed, the disease had rendered her infertile. From afterwards – her baby was born healthy, but she didn’t qualify for IVF treatment due to advanced age and uterine health issues.

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Fran had been diagnosed with endometriosis and IBS with her ages fell below the normal age for endometriosis. But today she is that women’s problem was all, in fact, down to endometriosis. women, and is linked to the monthly cycle. But as the symptoms are often confused with other conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), the average patient waits almost seven years and, in some cases, even longer.

The disease has, in her own words, “frustrated her life.” There are 4.5 million women in the UK living with endometriosis and it is common, affecting 1 in 10 women in the UK. But it can also affect men, with around 200,000 men in the UK living with the disease. Endometriosis is caused by cells from the lining of the uterus (endometrium) that grow outside the uterus. These endometrial cells can develop into scar tissue, adhesions, or cysts, which can cause pain and infertility. Endometriosis is diagnosed through a combination of medical history, physical examination, and imaging tests such as ultrasound, MRI, or CT scans.

**Endometriosis expert at the University of Edinburgh:**

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