# Experiences of male partners of women with endometriosis-associated pelvic pain: a qualitative study

[Deborah Margatho](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Margatho+D&cauthor_id=35867527), [Maria Y Makuch](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Makuch+MY&cauthor_id=35867527), [Luis Bahamondes](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Bahamondes+L&cauthor_id=35867527)

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## Abstract

**Objectives:**The purpose of the study was to assess the experiences of male partners of women with endometriosis-associated pain after medical treatment in their everyday lives.

**Methods:**We conducted a phenomenological study based on semi-structured interviews with 11 male partners of women with endometriosis-associated pelvic pain at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Campinas Medical School, Brazil. A thematic analysis of manifest content was performed, a coding frame was drafted, and the main analysis categories were elaborated.

**Results:**The interviewed men had been in stable relationships for a median length of 14 years. They reported that they did not have information about endometriosis before their partners' diagnosis and that the endometriosis-associated pelvic pain suffered by their partners affected their personal everyday life, marital relationship, sexual relationship, and intimacy.

**Conclusion:**Male partners of women with endometriosis-associated pain reported that the disease has both a profound impact on their lives and on their relationship. Our study contributed to an increased understanding of the life experience of men living with women with endometriosis-associated pelvic pain and may contribute to encourage healthcare professionals to incorporate strategies for guidance of the couple during treatment.

**Keywords:**Endometriosis; chronic pelvic pain; men partners; qualitative research; quality of life.