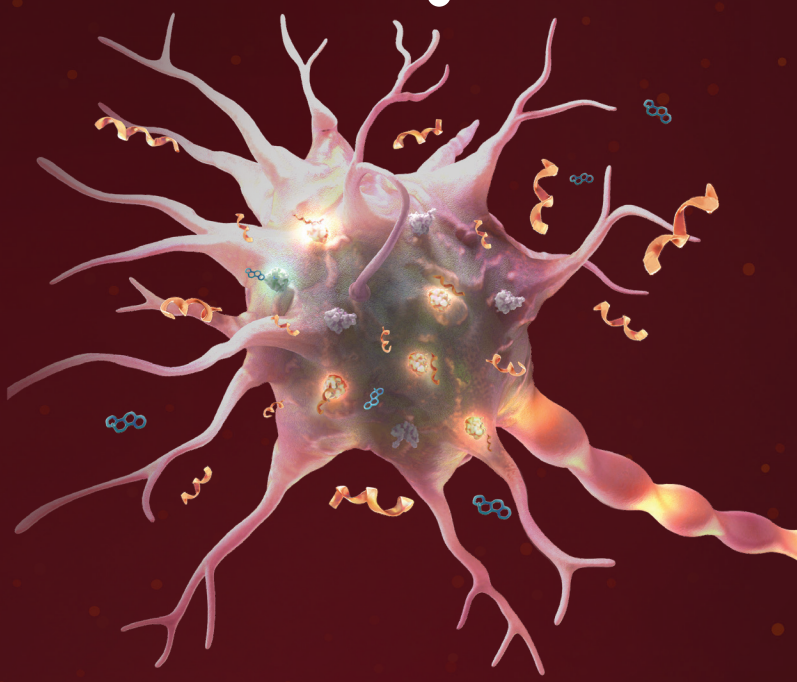
NEURONAL INFLUENCE IN MENOPAUSAL VMS

Natural menopause is a physiologic event and an important stage of a woman's life, but up to 80% of women will experience the burden of Vasomotor Symptoms (VMS) due to menopause, commonly known as hot flushes and night sweats.[1,2]

Inside the source of a hot flush

THERMOREGULATORY HOMEOSTASIS IS ALTERED BY THE HPO (HYPOTHALAMIC-PITUITARY-OVARIAN) AXIS

1. The hypothalamus communicates via the pituitary with the ovaries, causing the ovaries to release estrogen, which creates a negative feedback loop.[3]
2. Estrogen-sensitive neurons in the hypothalamus project to the thermoregulatory center, which triggers peripheral heat dissipation mechanisms (normal cooling).[4,5]
3. Low estrogen levels in menopause lead to loss of negative feedback, and neuronal activity increases, causing a hypersensitive response (ie, vasodilation, sweating) and resulting in VMS.[4-6]



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