

# Vaginismus can cause marriages to end in divorce

MANY married women fail to be intimate with their husbands as a result of suffering from vaginismus, *Harian Metro* reported.

The condition involves a muscle spasm in the pelvic floor muscles that can make it painful or difficult to have sexual intercourse.

The report quoted clinical

psychologist of the Psychiatry Department of Universiti Putra Malaysia's Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Prof Dr Firdaus Mukhtar as saying that many women experience vaginismus, especially urban professionals.

These married women are still virgins for being unable to consum-

mate their marriage, it added.

Interestingly, many of the women are attractive, highly educated and even comprise celebrities, it said.

Vaginismus, which concerns a person's physical or psychological state or both, has caused marriages to end in divorce, said the report.

Globally, some 4% to 47% women

are afflicted with the condition. There's no detailed information about it in Malaysia.

The report said many patients suffer in silence as they are reluctant to seek treatment due to embarrassment while others do not receive the appropriate treatment from their doctors.