

**Question for written answer E-000509/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU support for research into Restless Legs Syndrome

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) is a chronic neurological disease affecting 5-10% of the adult population – more women than men, by a ratio of around 2:1.

Current therapies are mainly pharmacological and symptomatic. The medicines considered to be first-choice are non-ergot dopamine agonists (NEDAs) and anti-convulsant drugs. Unfortunately, however, 40% of patients do not respond to these treatments and a further 25-50% abandon them after a year, due to their lack of benefits or side-effects¹.

After a few months of taking dopamine agonists, the results are negative and can even be very harmful, with effects such as earlier onset of symptoms, increased intensity of symptoms and greater number of body parts affected. In 2007 an international team of researchers identified the genes responsible for controlling the development of the syndrome as MEIS1 and BTBD9 MAP2K5 and LBXCOR1.

In 2014, the Commission approved the use of the fixed-dose combination of oxycodone and naloxone and the positive results demonstrate that this combination could be a valid therapeutic tool.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How does it intend to promote scientific research into RLS as part of the programme EU4Health 2021-2027?
2. How will it allocate new funding for research into the genes responsible for the syndrome?

¹ <https://www.pharmastar.it/news//ema/sindrome-delle-gambe-senza-riposo-via-libera-ue-a-ossicodone-naloxone-17069#:~:text=La%20Commissione%20Europea%20ha%20approvato,refrattari%20ad%20opzioni%20terapeutiche%20differenti>