CENTER FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE URETHRAL SURGERY

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Bulbar urethroplasty: how to avoid complications







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48 Substitution Urethroplasty and the Pedicled Island Penile Skin Procedure



CHAPTER



Mr. Richard Turner-Warwick



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All operations on the anterior urethra naturally involve the spongy tissue so that a basic requirement of urethral

surgery is the avoidance of erections or erectile turgescence; this is particularly important for operative procedures that require a definitive spongioplasty. It is, therefore, somewhat remarkable that one of the commonest anesthetic procedures offered for urologic operations is an epidural block—the turgescence and partial erection that this commonly creates may reassure the anesthesiologist that the anesthesia is progressing satisfactorily—but is not helpful to the urologist.

Urologists commonly complain about unwanted erections, but many anesthesiologists have never been asked to prevent them—and some do not know how to prevent them effectively. It is important to appreciate that a positively diminished erectile tissue blood supply and an induced systemic hypotension are quite different hemodynamic features that may or may not be coincident during anesthesia. In general, a pharmacologic ganglion blockade sufficient to cause dilatation of the pupils induces a specific reduction in the vascular circulation of the erectile tissue and enables one to "look into the interstices" of the spongy tissue after sponging (instead of a constant welling up) before it significantly reduces the systolic blood pressure. A secret of a comfortable surgical operating field is induced bradycardia.²¹

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"…epidural block is not helpful for the urologist".



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Male urethra

Posterior: *functional urethra*,

for urinary continence and erectile

function.

Anterior: *non-functional urethra*, excluding the activity of bulbo-spongiosum muscles.







Arterial supply





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Arterial supply







Arterial supply





Arterial supply



Vascular necrosis of the bulbar urethra



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Rhythmic contractions of the bulbospongiosum muscles and other perineal muscles expel semen from the urethra and have an important role in expelling urine, avoiding

urine sequestration in the large

urethral bulb.

Yang and Bradley, BJU International 2000; 85:857-863





During bulbar urethroplasty, damage to the bulbospongiosum muscle and to the perineal nerves may play a role in determining loss of efficient urethral contraction, causing difficulties in expelling semen and urine, and temporary or permanent sexual dysfunction.



Loss of efficient contraction of the bulbospongiosum muscles and corpus spongiosum

- ✓ decreased force of the ejaculation jet
- ✓ loss of the ejaculation jet
- ✓ semen sequestration
- ✓ infertility
- ✓ urine sequestration in the urethral bulb
- ✓ post-voiding dribbling



AVOIDING ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION IN URETHRAL SURGERY



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 The difficulty of accurately defining erectile dysfunction before and after open reconstructive surgery led to lack of information about epidemiology.



Sexual Function/Infertility

The Effect of Bulbar Urethroplasty on Erectile Function

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CONCLUSIONS

We report on men undergoing 4 variations of bulbar urethroplasty and we found that such surgery had an insignificant effect on EF. Surgical complexity with long stricture excision and the use of a buccal graft did not influence outcome. Our data suggest that increasing age and preoperative erectile dysfunction may adversely affect postoperative outcome.





Long-Term Followup of Bulbar End-to-End Anastomosis: A Retrospective Analysis of 153 Patients in a Single Center Experience

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- > 153 patients who underwent bulbar end-to-end anastomosis.
- > Average age: 39 years (range 14-78).
- > Average follow-up: 68 months (range 12-218).



Out of 153 patients, 60 patients (39,22%)were investigated by nonvalidated telephone questionnaire administered by a neutral person who was not part of the hospital staff.

Age 20 – 50 years, no diabetes or vascular diseases, no previous open urethroplasty, no further surgery after the end-to-end.

5 questions to investigate modifications in ejaculation. 7 questions to investigate the presence of neurovascular penile disorders.

2 questions to evaluate final patient satisfaction of dissatisfaction following surgery.

J Urol 2007; 178: 2470



Out of 60 patients: 12 (20%) experienced decreased ejaculation force. 2 (3.3%) ejaculation was possible only by manually compressing the perineum at the level of the urethral bulb. 1 (1.6%) had a cold glans during erection. 7 (11.6%) had a glans that was neither full nor swollen during erection. 11 (18.3%) had decreased sensitivity of the glans or distal penile shaft. No patient complain penile chordee or impotence. Out of 60 patients, 2 (3.3%) declared that they were dissatisfied

with the outcome of surgery.

J Urol 2007; 178: 2470





The Relationship Between Erectile Dysfunction and Open Urethroplasty: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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J Sex Med 2013; 10: 2060







Conclusions

Comparison of incidence of ED before vs. after bulbar urethroplasty.

Out of 20 studies included in the analysis only 5 studies, eligible for metanalysis, reported data on erectile function before and after open urethroplasty.

No statistical difference was found in the incidence of ED pre and post operation.

J Sex Med 2013; 10: 2060



Conclusions

Comparison of different type of bulbar urethroplasty.

Patients who underwent bulbar graft urethroplasty showed less incidence (16.67%) of ED compared to patients who underwent anastomotic transecting urethroplasty (36.54%).

J Sex Med 2013; 10: 2060



Conclusions

Comparison of incidence of ED before vs. after posterior urethroplasty.

Out of 20 studies included in the analysis only 6 studies, eligible for metaanalysis, reported data on erectile function before and after open urethroplasty.

The incidence of ED before the operation was significanly higher than after the operation.

J Sex Med 2013; 10: 2060



Non-transecting anastomotic bulbar urethroplasty: a preliminary report **BUU INTERNATIONAL** Daniela E. Andrich and Anthony R. Mundy Institute of Urology, London, UK Accepted for publication 21 April 2011 Br J Urol Int 2011; 109:1090-1094 REVIEW GURRENT **Bulbar urethroplasty: transecting vs.** nontransecting techniques Guido Barbagli^a, Salvatore Sansalone^b, Giuseppe Romano^a, and Massimo Lazzeri^c Curr Opin Urol Int 2012; 22:474-477 www.uretra.it Websites: e-mail: info@urethralcenter.it

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Bulbar urethroplasty



Working around urethra may damage innervation and blood supply



To avoid erectile dysfunction



Work inside the urethra and not around the urethra





To avoid erectile dysfunction



Dissection and/or urethral transection may cause ED



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To avoid erectile dysfunction



Whenever possible use grafting rather than transecting technique



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Urethral elasticity is mainly due to great elasticity of the spongiusum tissue but don't mean "vascular elasticity".

Urethral elasticity is related to the spongiusum tissue, no to the urethral arteries.

Arterial blood supply of the bulbar urethra is greatly variable in our patients.

It is not possible to evaluate when and if any "free tension" anastomosis may cause vascular ischemia.

Recurrent stricture after end-to-end

September 18, 2003

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