

Preface
Erectile Dysfunction



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Guest Editor

It has been several years since *Urologic Clinics of North America* has discussed the topics associated with male sexual health. In the intervening years, there has been a revolution in the understanding of the basic and clinical sciences associated with erectile dysfunction (ED) and its treatment. At the same time, epidemiologic studies from throughout the world have confirmed the prevalence of ED and risk factors associated with this condition. Today, the physician and scientist understand that vascular disease and associated risk factors are the leading patient conditions associated with loss of erections. Newer risks including benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) associated with lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), depression, and hypogonadism can be single or additive risk factors for the development of ED. As more patients are treated for ED and men previously poorly functional become sexually active, more men are complaining of penile curvature associated with Peyronie's disease. The treatment of this incurable and difficult to treat condition continues to be controversial. Medical alternatives are few and only marginally effective while surgery is appropriate in only a limited number of men. Surgical treatment of Peyronie's disease is becoming more common and as the numbers increase, the success rates likewise improve.

In men in whom all conservative medical treatment fails, surgical implantation of penile

prostheses continues to be a safe and effective strategy with excellent patient and partner acceptance and satisfaction. Newer implants with antibiotic coatings have significantly reduced morbidity and device failure.

In this issue of *Urologic Clinics of North America*, the contributors have endeavored to elucidate the latest data and clinical practice in the diagnosis of men with ED, review the risk factors and men who are at risk for ED. Finally, discussion of treatment of ED with PDE-5 inhibitors, newer central nervous system acting agents and surgery will give the reader a complete overview of the evaluation, diagnosis, and varied treatments available for men with sexual and erectile dysfunction.

It has been a great pleasure to edit this issue and work with so many outstanding authors. The efforts of the authors are evident throughout this issue with their lucid and complete discussions. I am indebted to the editorial staff of *Urologic Clinics* for their assistance, expertise and efficiency in publishing and outstanding issue.

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