

Foreword  
**Erectile Dysfunction**



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In the not too distant past, erectile dysfunction was considered a consequence of aging and, although of great concern to the affected patient, little was available to evaluate or treat the problem. Over the ensuing years, much has been learned related to the various causes of erectile function and significant developments have occurred in patient evaluation and treatment. Cardiovascular disease, neurologic disorders, and the development of benign prostatic hyperplasia (with its associated urinary symptoms) have been associated with erectile problems. In addition, as noted in this issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America*, increased recognition of the presence of Peyronie's disease and its impact on erectile function has been appreciated. The understanding of the physiology associated with penile tumescence and detumescence has allowed for better assessment of the disease so that appropriate treatment modalities can be specifically applied to a particular patient. Las-

tly, the development of phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors in association with new prostheses and surgical procedures has been of great value to many.

Dr. Carson and associates are to be congratulated for developing an issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America* that broadly and specifically addresses many of these issues. Erectile dysfunction is a common problem that is seen by urologists on a daily basis, and this issue should be of value in providing the most up-to-date information on patient evaluation and treatment.

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