

"Sexual Function Following Simultaneous Irradiation for Prostate Cancer"

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PURPOSE: Using a standardized questionnaire, erectile dysfunction (ED) is evaluated in this study following brachytherapy for prostate cancer.

METHODS: From August 1992-December 2000 1,848 T1T2NX men who received no pretreatment hormones were treated by simultaneous irradiation (prostate I-125 seed implant followed by external beam irradiation). All described themselves pretreatment, based on an in house questionnaire, as having no or only mild ED. In November 1998, a standardized questionnaire to evaluate erectile function, International Index of Erectile Function-5 (IIEF-5), was given all men every six months posttreatment to determine ED. Kaplan Meier calculations were used to determine the sexual impotency rate by age (total IIEF 7 or less). Median followup is 30 months (range 12-96).

RESULTS OBTAINED: According to the age group at implant of 50 or less, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70 and >70, the percent of men who are sexually potent five years posttreatment is 93%, 83%, 75%, 69%, 67% and 40% respectively, a significant difference ($p=0.0001$). Of the total men in this study, 622 had an IIEF-5 total score of 22-25 (no ED) pretreatment. Pretreatment the percent of men by age who described no ED was 89%, 84%, 79%, 71%, 65% and 55% according to the six age groups. At three years posttreatment, the percent of men describing no ED, according to the above age groups, was 57%, 49%, 41%, 31%, 33%, 22% and 12%.

CONCLUSION: Overall, 22% take Viagra. Of men with mild or no ED pretreatment, age has a significant impact on posttreatment preservation of sexual potency. Additionally, of men who maintain sexual potency, a substantial degree of ED is noted posttreatment.