

APSIR BOOK on Erectile Dysfunction



Edited by:

Young-Chan Kim
Hui-Meng Tan

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIETY FOR IMPOTENCE RESEARCH

APSIR BOOK

on Erectile Dysfunction

The Epidemiology and Physiology
of Male Sexual Dysfunction, its
Clinical Evaluation and Treatment,
and Future Trends in Research

Edited by:

Young-Chan Kim MD, PhD

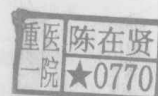
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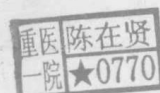
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Contents

Preface	7
<i>Masafumi Shirai</i>	
Contributors	9
Section I: Basic Concepts of Erectile Dysfunction	13
Important Principles	
Chapter 1	15
Epidemiology of Erectile Dysfunction: Prevalence and Risk Factors	
<i>Ken Marumo and Masaru Murai</i>	
Chapter 2	27
Physiopharmacology of Penile Erection: Peripheral and Central Mechanisms	
<i>P.G. Adaikan, B. Srilatha, L.C. Lau and S.C. Ng</i>	
Chapter 3	46
Cerebral Neural Regulation of Penile Erection: Current and Future Research	
<i>Kuang-Kuo Chen</i>	
Section II: Clinical Evaluation of Erectile Dysfunction	50
Important Principles	
Chapter 4	53
Diagnosis of Erectile Dysfunction	
<i>Masafumi Shirai</i>	
Chapter 5	61
Hormonal Evaluation of Erectile Dysfunction	
<i>K.K. Chew</i>	
Chapter 6	76
Vascular Evaluation of Erectile Dysfunction	
<i>Nobuhisa Ishii</i>	
Chapter 7	82
Neurological and Muscular Evaluation of Erectile Dysfunction	
<i>Gyung-woo Jung, Yun-chul Ok and Jin-han Yoon</i>	
Chapter 8	95
Psychosexual Counselling for Erectile Dysfunction:	
Basic Approach for Non-Psychiatrists	
<i>Seung-Chul, Shin</i>	

Section III: Non-Surgical Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction Important Principles	110
Chapter 9 Hormonal Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction <i>Clarence Lei Chang Moh and Young Chan Kim</i>	113
Chapter 10 Oral Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction <i>Yasusuke Kimoto</i>	118
Chapter 11 Vacuum Erection Devices for Erectile Dysfunction <i>Patrick K.K. Mah and Hin Wai Yap</i>	126
Chapter 12 Intracavernosal Injection Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction <i>E.C. Tan</i>	134
Chapter 13 Transurethral Alprostadil with the MUSE™ Delivery System for Erectile Dysfunction <i>Young Chan Kim</i>	144
Section IV: Surgical Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction Important Principles	156
Chapter 14 Prosthetic Surgery <i>Sae-Chul Kim</i>	158
Chapter 15 The Role of Vascular Surgery <i>Johnny Shinn-Nan Lin</i>	169

Section V: Specific Conditions Related to Erectile Dysfunction Important Principles	176
Chapter 16 Hormone Deficiency in Aging Men: An Update on Testosterone Supplementation <i>Young Chan Kim</i>	179
Chapter 17 Erectile Dysfunction in Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension and Spinal Cord Injury <i>Michitaka Yajima and Teruaki Iwamoto</i>	196
Chapter 18 Peyronie's Disease <i>Geng Long Hsu</i>	200
Chapter 19 Penile Augmentation: Current Controversies <i>Hui-Meng Tan and Peter Eng-Pin Ng</i>	213
Chapter 20 Traditional and Alternative Therapy in Male Sexual Dysfunction: Its Relevance in Asia Today <i>Ismail Tambi</i>	218
Section VI: Ejaculatory Disorders Important Principles	223
Chapter 21 Ejaculation Physiology and Disorders <i>Susilo Wibowo</i>	225
Chapter 22 Premature Ejaculation: Evaluation and Treatment <i>Hyung-Ki Choi and Koon Ho Rha</i>	263
Subject Index	275

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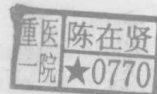
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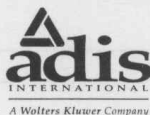


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Section III: Non-Surgical Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction 110
Important Principles

Chapter 9 113
Hormonal Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction
Clarence Lei Chang Moh and Young Chan Kim

Chapter 10 118
Oral Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction
Yasusuke Kimoto

Chapter 11 126
Vacuum Erection Devices for Erectile Dysfunction
Patrick K.K. Mah and Hin Wai Yap

Chapter 12 134
Intracavernosal Injection Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction
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Chapter 13 144
Transurethral Alprostadil with the MUSE™ Delivery System
for Erectile Dysfunction
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Section IV: Surgical Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction 156
Important Principles

Chapter 14 158
Prosthetic Surgery
Sae-Chul Kim

Chapter 15 169
The Role of Vascular Surgery
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Subject Index	275

Preface

The study of sexual function has a long history in Asia. In China, in particular, studies on sustaining sexual function throughout life as well as on the prevention of aging and attainment of longevity have been conducted from before recorded times. As a result, a variety of therapeutic modalities have been developed and handed down over generations to become part of the Chinese medicine we know today.

In medieval times, however, religion and morals regulated society and in Asian countries strongly influenced by Confucianism, sex has been regarded as a taboo subject. This influence still exists today and many people still have a conservative attitude towards various issues relating to sex.

It appears likely that serious scientific research on male sexual function began in Asia and western countries at around the same time. In Japan, fundamental research on the diagnosis and treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED), including studies on the hemodynamic mechanism of erection, the differential diagnosis of ED with the aid of visual sexual stimulation (VSS) or drugs, and treatment with intracavernosal injections of alprostadil (prostaglandin E₁, PGE₁), a vacuum-assisted device for inducing penile erection and related penile hemodynamics, and installation of silicone penile prostheses, are keeping pace with similar research in the west. At the same time, sexual liberation has become more widespread in Japan and a number of surveys on the frequency of sexual intercourse, for example, have been conducted, indicating little difference from findings in the west.

With the current global phenomenon of nervous exhaustion arising from the stress of modern society, everyone is at risk of developing sexual dysfunction, at least to some degree. It is certainly a fact that the incidence of psychogenic ED has been increasing of late. Although nerve preservation surgery is now widely conducted for malignant tumors of the pelvic organs, in certain cases it is inevitable that sexual function will be sacrificed in consideration of radical treatment of malignant primary lesions. Furthermore, with the increasing occurrence of injuries arising from traffic accidents, the incidence of trauma of the nerves controlling sexual function is increasing. Also rising is the incidence of diabetes mellitus along with westernization of the Japanese diet, a phenomenon that is leading to an increase in the incidence of sexual dysfunction. Moreover, the percentage of elderly people in society is increasing, and many cases of sexual dysfunction are occurring because of pharmacotherapy for various age-related diseases such as hypertension, and as a result of age-associated changes in the penile vascular and

endocrine systems. The combined effect of these factors is an increase in the incidence of sexual dysfunction in every age group.

Sexual dysfunction is an extremely serious problem for the couple concerned and is having a considerable effect on societies, such as that of Japan, where there are mounting concerns about the decreasing proportion of children in the population. Although sexual liberation is becoming more widespread in Asia, it is less open than in the west, thereby increasing the difficulty patients have in discussing their sexual dysfunction. On the other hand, with the current rapid clarification of erection and ejaculation mechanisms, the results of basic studies have been put to clinical use, leading to remarkable progress in the treatment of sexual dysfunction. One example is the appearance of sildenafil, a drug for the treatment of ED. Along with increased public awareness of the existence of this drug, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of patients seeking consultation about their ED. Accordingly, the diagnosis and treatment of sexual dysfunction has continued to increase.

Investigators around the world specializing in the study of sexual dysfunction have joined together to form the International Society for Impotence Research (ISIR), and the first ISIR World Meeting on Impotence was held in Paris in 1984. This meeting has since been held biannually. Prior to the formation of the ISIR, the Japanese Society for Impotence Research (JSIR) had been established in 1978 and began related activities. Similarly, investigators in the Asia-Pacific region formed the Asia-Pacific Society for Impotence Research (APSIR) and the first APSIR Meeting on Impotence was held in Hong Kong in 1987. Since then, Asia-Pacific investigators have been meeting biannually to report on their latest research results and deepen their relationships. A significant landmark in this sequence of events is the publication of this textbook on Male Sexual Dysfunction, which has been edited by Dr Young Chan Kim and Dr Hui-Meng Tan, with contributions from young and enthusiastic APSIR investigators working with a common appreciation of sex-related values on the topic of ED in the Asia-Pacific region.

I am convinced that this textbook will be extremely useful not only for ED specialists, but also for general clinicians, young investigators and medical students preparing to specialize in this field.

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