

About Your Surgery

Penile prosthesis

This handout explains penile prosthetic surgery. This surgery is done to correct sexual dysfunction. If you have any questions before or after the operation, please call the Men's Health Center at 206-598-6358.

What to Expect

Penile prosthetic surgery is done to correct sexual dysfunction. This surgery is successful for 90% of men (90 out of 100).

This surgery is done under *epidural* or *general anesthesia*. With an epidural, numbing medicine (anesthesia) is injected into your spine. It blocks feeling in your lower body. With general anesthesia, you will be asleep and unable to feel pain.

Your surgeon will make an incision where your penis meets your scrotum. Sometimes, a second incision is made just above your pubic bone. This will depend on whether you have had other surgeries in this area.

Most times, 3 devices are inserted:

- Erectile cylinders in your penis
- A pump device in your scrotum
- A fluid supply behind your pubic bone

This surgery usually takes 1 to 3 hours, depending on the type of prosthesis being inserted. It causes only a small loss of blood. You will not need a blood transfusion.

An inflatable prosthesis usually works for about 7 to 10 years. A semi-rigid prosthesis lasts a little longer.

After Your Surgery

Recovery in the Hospital

- You will be in the recovery room for 2 to 4 hours after your surgery. You may spend 1 night in the hospital.
- You may be able to eat soon after surgery, depending on how your body reacts to the anesthesia you received.



Please talk with your doctor if you have any questions or concerns about your surgery.

- You may have a *urinary catheter*. This is a thin tube that will carry urine from your bladder to outside your body. This catheter will be removed the next day.
- If you have a drain, it will also be removed the next day.

Incision Care

- Your incision will be covered with waterproof glue that will wear off in 3 to 5 days.
- Your stitches will dissolve in about 4 weeks.
- You will need to keep your penis dry for 2 days. You may shower the 2nd day after your surgery, but cover the area with a plastic bag to keep your incision(s) dry.

Medicine

You will receive a prescription for pain medicine and antibiotics.

Pain

- A cold pack will work better than pain medicine to ease pain after surgery. Apply cold packs (such as a bag of frozen peas) to your penis for the first 24 hours, 20 minutes on, then 20 minutes off. Cover the area with a towel first. Do **not** place the cold pack directly on your skin.
- Most men have painful erections at night after this surgery. Use a cold pack on your penis to ease the pain.

Activity

- You should be able to go back to work in 1 to 2 weeks, depending on the type of prosthesis you have and the type of work you do.
- Avoid sexual activity, including masturbation, for 6 weeks.
- Avoid ALL strenuous activity that might result in contact with the prosthesis or any of its parts.
- Avoid any activity where the penis and scrotum are soaked in water. It is OK to shower.

Follow-up Visit

A health care provider in the Men's Health Center will get your device working and show you how to use it at your follow-up visit in 5 to 6 weeks.

Other Options

Besides this surgery, you may also try these options to correct sexual dysfunction:

- Drugs such as Viagra, Levitra, or Cialis

- Urethral inserts such as MUSE (Medicated Urethral System for Erection)
- Injection treatment into your penis
- A vacuum suction device (with or without injection treatment)
- Surgery on your veins and arteries

Cautions

- This surgery cannot be reversed. It causes permanent changes to your tissue that is involved in erections.
- After this procedure, erection is not natural. Your penis may become shorter and narrower.
- You may need another surgery if there are complications. This may include removal of the prosthesis. Replacement is not guaranteed.
- The prosthesis does not affect your ability to ejaculate or achieve climax.

Possible Side Effects or Complications

- Infection is the most serious complication. About 2% to 5% of men (2 to 5 out of 100) get an infection. This may occur within 10 days after surgery or even several months or years later. The infection risk is higher if you have scar tissue in your penis from Peyronie's disease or an implant you had in the past.
- If any holes are made in your urethra during surgery, the operation may have to be stopped. If holes occur later, another surgery will need to be done to remove or replace the device and repair the holes.
- The tubing of the prosthesis may be injured during placement or during future surgery on your abdomen or scrotum.
- Pain may last for several weeks or even months after this surgery.
- Tissue loss (*necrosis*) may occur in men who have vascular disease (such as some men with diabetes) or men who are having a lot of work done on their penis to treat scarring or Peyronie's disease.
- A semi-rigid prosthesis will affect how you urinate. The implant partly blocks the outlet from the bladder.
- You may be numb around the incision. This may take several months to go away.
- You may have bruising (black and blue). This may take several weeks to go away.
- You may have scarring near the incision.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

Men's Health Center:
206-598-6358

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to
5 p.m.

After hours and on weekends
or holidays, call this same
number or go to the
Emergency Room.

Find more information at:
<http://depts.washington.edu/uroweb>