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INVITED COMMENTARY

Male Health

Commentary on “Effects of patients’ understanding and choice of surgical types on postoperative outcomes of Peyronie’s disease: a single-center retrospective study of 108 patients” – the right choice in Peyronie’s disease surgery

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Even though Peyronie’s disease (PD) is not the most frequent disease in men, the real incidence is underestimated, and in a reference andrological surgery center, there is an increasing demand for surgery for this disease.

The paper by Zheng *et al.*¹ although retrospective and with a short follow-up has enrolled a good number of patients. The aim of the article is not to select the best surgical method but how to evaluate and cope with the main problem in this kind of procedures: patients’ dissatisfaction (due to real or unrealistic expectations) for the result.

The outcome of surgery was evaluated in relation to the patient’s choice of the type of surgery according to the doctor’s recommendations, and the results were evaluated according to questionnaire surveys and objective parameters such as penile straightening, penile length, and sexual function. A pitfall of the paper is that too many groups are evaluated (doctor’s advice, plication, patch surgery), but the main value

of the paper is to draw attention to the main problem with this group of patients: unrealistic expectations.

It should be possible to demonstrate with imaging the preoperative and the postoperative status to the “complaining” patients, and we are studying a new three-dimensional (3D) recording method to obtain digital images.² Even more we are studying a computerized system to predict and visualize the expected result of surgery. Hopefully in the future, this problem will be solved.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The author declares no competing interests.

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- 2 Pavone C, Abrate A, Altomare S, Vella M, Serretta V, *et al.* Is Kelami’s method still useful in the smartphone era? The virtual 3-dimensional reconstruction of penile curvature in patients with Peyronie’s disease: a pilot study. *J Sex Med* 2021; 18: 209-14.

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