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## IN BRIEF

### MALE FACTOR INFERTILITY

#### DNA integrity of sperm is maintained by freeze-drying

A study in *Fertility and Sterility* has investigated whether freeze-drying has a similar detrimental effect on sperm to cryopreservation in liquid nitrogen, which significantly reduces the motility, viability and DNA integrity of spermatozoa compared with fresh samples. Sperm samples from 30 men were aliquoted, with one sample freeze-dried and another stored in liquid nitrogen. Freeze-drying completely compromised sperm motility and viability; however, chromatin structure was unaltered compared to fresh samples, showing that DNA integrity was not affected by the freeze-drying procedure.

**Original article** Gianaroli, L. *et al.* DNA integrity is maintained after freeze-drying of human spermatozoa. *Fertil. Steril.* doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2012.02.014

### SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

#### Association between hepatitis and erectile dysfunction

Hypogonadism and testicular atrophy are associated with liver disease and can contribute to erectile dysfunction (ED). Logistical regression analysis was used to compute the odds ratio of patients with ED having received a previous diagnosis of hepatitis, compared with men without ED. Viral hepatitis was previously diagnosed in 14% of cases compared with 9% of controls (OR=1.51,  $P<0.001$ ), with hepatitis B and C being especially highly associated with ED.

**Original article** Chung, S. D. *et al.* Association between viral hepatitis and erectile dysfunction: a population-based case-control analysis. *J. Sex. Med.* doi:10.1111/j.1743-6109.2012.02663.x

### KIDNEY CANCER

#### Cost of nephron-sparing techniques for cT1a masses

A range of treatment options are available to treat small renal masses. Castle *et al.* compared the 6-month costs associated with nephron-sparing techniques for cT1a renal tumors, collecting data on surgical costs, associated hospital stay and costs over the postoperative period. Radiofrequency ablation proved to be the cheapest option, with median total costs of \$13,965 for laparoscopic radiofrequency ablation and \$6,475 for CT-guided radiofrequency ablation. Total costs were \$17,018 for open partial nephrectomy, and \$20,314 for robot-assisted partial nephrectomy. As surgical outcomes become more comparable between techniques, the costs of procedures will be ever more relevant in treatment decisions.

**Original article** Castle, S. M. *et al.* Cost comparison of nephron-sparing treatments for cT1a renal masses. *Urol. Oncol.* doi:10.1016/j.urolonc.2012.01.006

### PAIN

#### Raising the bar on genital neuropathies in female cyclists

Partin *et al.* investigated genital sensation and perineal and saddle pressures in women who cycled at least 10 miles per week. Positioning of handlebars lower than the saddle correlated with increased perineum saddle pressures and decreased anterior vaginal and left labial sensation. Modifying bicycle set-up could be an easy method to prevent the development of genital neuropathies in female cyclists.

**Original article** Partin, S. M. *et al.* The Bar Sinister: does handlebar level damage the pelvic floor in female cyclists? *J. Sex. Med.* doi:10.1111/j.1743-6109.2012.02680.x