

for infertility that is not attributed to male-factor infertility. In addition, state-mandated insurance coverage for IVF was associated with greater use of ICSI for infertility other than male-factor infertility.

The authors recommend that, owing to the added cost, uncertain efficacy and potential risks of ICSI, expanded use of the technique should be curtailed.

Original article Jain T and Gupta RS (2007) Trends in the use of intracytoplasmic sperm injection in the United States. *N Engl J Med* 357: 251–257

Increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity in men with prostate cancer who receive ADT

The use of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) has increased sharply over the past two decades, and it has been suggested that this treatment might exacerbate the risk of cardiovascular morbidity, for example by causing increases in body fat and serum cholesterol. Saigal and colleagues evaluated the cardiovascular outcomes in a large population of men with prostate cancer who received ADT compared with those who did not.

The authors identified 22,816 patients from the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database who were diagnosed with prostate cancer between 1992 and 1996 and who had not experienced a cardiovascular event within the first 12 months after diagnosis. Of these, 4,810 men had received ADT (first treatment between 3 months before and 6 months after diagnosis) and 18,006 men did not receive ADT (control cohort). The mean duration of ADT, represented as 1-month equivalent doses, was 21 months.

Patients who underwent ADT were significantly more likely to experience a cardiovascular event 12–60 months after diagnosis than men in the control group (24% versus 18%, $P < 0.001$). Overall, ADT conferred a 20% higher risk of serious cardiovascular morbidity compared with controls; this risk was observed within the first 12 months of treatment. Men of Hispanic origin had a lower cardiovascular risk than white men.

The authors conclude that these findings are relevant to the use of ADT in settings where its efficacy has not been proven. Counseling to reduce cardiovascular risk factors, such as

diet and exercise, might be useful for patients with metastatic disease.

Original article Saigal CS *et al.* (2007) Androgen deprivation therapy increases cardiovascular morbidity in men with prostate cancer. *Cancer* 110: 1493–1500

Treatment with baclofen improves dysfunctional voiding in women

Dysfunctional voiding is a major cause of lower urinary tract symptoms in women for which there is no established, effective treatment. Xu and colleagues, therefore, conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover study to evaluate the efficacy of baclofen, a potent γ -aminobutyric acid receptor agonist, as a treatment for adult women with dysfunctional voiding.

The authors enrolled 60 women (mean age 46.2 years) who presented with urodynamically confirmed dysfunctional voiding and in whom >1 year's treatment with anticholinergic agents had failed. Following a placebo lead-in period, patients were randomly assigned to receive either oral baclofen (10 mg three times daily) or matching placebo for 4 weeks; after a washout period of 2 weeks, the groups then switched to the other treatment for a further 4 weeks. Improvement in symptoms was assessed with voiding diaries, multichannel urodynamics and electromyography, performed at baseline, 4 weeks and 10 weeks.

Patients experienced significantly fewer voids per 24 h period after receiving baclofen compared with placebo (mean difference from baseline 5.53 versus 2.70, $P = 0.001$). The TL value (logarithm of the electrical potential ratio of the sphincter before voiding and at maximum urinary flow rate) was also significantly higher in patients treated with baclofen compared with placebo (mean difference from baseline -1.78 versus 0.01 , $P = 0.001$). There was no difference in adverse events related to baclofen and placebo.

The authors conclude that this proof-of-concept study shows 4 weeks of baclofen treatment is effective in women with dysfunctional voiding.

Original article Xu D *et al.* (2007) Dysfunctional voiding confirmed by transdermal perineal electromyography, and its effective treatment with baclofen in women with lower urinary tract symptoms: a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled crossover trial. *BJU Int* 100: 588–592