

## IN BRIEF

## MALE FACTOR INFERTILITY

Male mice deficient for *CatSper*, a gene that encodes a sperm-specific voltage-gated calcium channel, are infertile. Genetic analysis of two consanguineous Iranian families whose male members are affected by an autosomal recessive form of infertility has identified two insertion mutations of *CATSPER1*. This finding opens a new avenue for investigation of reproductive problems in men.

**Original article** Avenarius, M. R. *et al.* Human male infertility caused by mutations in the *CATSPER1* channel protein. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **84**, 505–510 (2009).

## STONES

A randomized controlled study has shown that the probability of expulsion of distal ureteral stones is increased by more than five times in patients taking 50 mg per day of the  $\alpha_{1D}$  adrenergic receptor blocker naftopidil. No adverse effects were noted during 14 days of follow-up, and there was no significant difference in expulsion time between the naftopidil-treated group and matched controls assigned to watchful waiting.

**Original article** Sun, X. *et al.* Efficacy of selective  $\alpha_{1D}$ -blocker naftopidil as medical expulsive therapy for distal ureteral stones. *J. Urol.* **181**, 1716–1720 (2009).

## BPH

Biodegradable urethral stents used to relieve acute urinary retention secondary to BPH have a tendency to break suddenly into large fragments and to migrate. These problems did not occur during a pilot trial of a braided-pattern stent composed of poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) inserted using a specially-designed apparatus. 3 months after stent insertion and initiation of dutasteride treatment, half of the 10-man study group was free of voiding difficulties.

**Original article** Kotsar, A. *et al.* Biodegradable braided poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) urethral stent combined with dutasteride in the treatment of acute urinary retention due to benign prostatic enlargement: a pilot study. *BJU Int.* **103**, 626–629 (2009).

## IMAGING

Real-time visualization using a portable gamma camera and laparoscopic gamma probe enhances identification of sentinel nodes in patients with prostatic, testicular and renal cell malignancies. The novel technique was used successfully by a Dutch team in 18 of 20 patients. A total of 59 sentinel nodes were located and removed, several from uncommon sites.

**Original article** Vermeeren, L. *et al.* Intraoperative radioguidance with a portable gamma camera: a novel technique for laparoscopic sentinel node localisation in urological malignancies. *Eur. J. Nucl. Med. Mol. Imaging*  
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