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IN BRIEF

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

Ergot alkaloids influence erectile function

The ergot alkaloids dihydroergotoxine and bromocriptine are erectogenic agents, according to a new preclinical study in rats. By contrast, the alkaloid ergotamine demonstrated detumescent properties in these animals. When injected intrapenially, dihydroergotoxine (at doses of 0.1–1.0 mg/0.1 ml) induced longer erections than a saline solution applied in the same manner and at the same volume. These results might have potential implications in the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Original article Radosavljevic, M. *et al.* Influence of dihydroergotoxine, bromocriptine and ergotamine on penile erection in Wistar rats. *J. Androl.* doi:10.2164/jandrol.111.015461

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

Avanafil is a safe and efficacious treatment for ED

A multicenter phase III trial of avanafil in 200 Korean men with erectile dysfunction has shown a significant improvement in patient erectile function at doses of 100 or 200 mg. During the 12-week trial, sexual function was assessed using patient questionnaires, including the International Index of Erectile Function and the Sexual Encounter Profile. Avanafil, a phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor, was well-tolerated and caused only transient and modest adverse events.

Original article Zhai, C. *et al.* Efficacy and safety of avanafil for treating erectile dysfunction: results of a multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *BJU Int.* doi:10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.11095.x

PROSTATE CANCER

Bevacizumab does not improve survival in mCRPC

Adding bevacizumab to standard docetaxel and prednisone therapy does not improve overall survival, despite improving progression-free survival and objective response, according to a randomized phase III clinical trial of 1,050 chemotherapy-naïve men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. Importantly, treatment-related deaths were significantly more frequent in the bevacizumab plus docetaxel and prednisone treatment arm than in the standard treatment arm ($P=0.005$). Addition of bevacizumab to the standard regimen was also associated with greater toxicity ($P\leq 0.001$).

Original article Kelly, W. K. *et al.* Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial comparing docetaxel and prednisone with or without bevacizumab in men with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer: CALB 90401. *J. Clin. Oncol.* doi:10.1200/JCO.2011.39.4767

BPH

New mouse model available for study

New research has found that spontaneously hypertensive rats treated with testosterone simultaneously display erectile dysfunction, enlarged prostates and lower urinary tract symptoms—three common problems in ageing men. The discovery should help scientists study the adverse sexual effects of treatments for BPH and lower urinary tract disorders, which has hitherto been difficult without an animal model that exhibits all three conditions.

Original article Oudot, A. *et al.* A new experimental rat model of erectile dysfunction and lower urinary tract symptoms associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia: the testosterone-supplemented spontaneously hypertensive rat. *BJU Int.* doi:10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.11085.x