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IN BRIEF

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

Could a curcumin derivative enhance sildenafil activity?

A preclinical study in diabetic rats has shown that a water-soluble curcumin derivative (NCD) alone or in combination with sildenafil citrate can significantly increase intracavernosal pressure (ICP) and positively affect other markers of erectile dysfunction. After treatment with NCD, curcumin or NCD plus curcumin, the rats had improved erectile function, as demonstrated by increased ICP and cGMP, nitric oxide synthase and haeme oxygenase-1 activity compared with no treatment. The combination intervention showed a particularly prolonged effect.

Original article Zaahkouk, A. M. *et al.* Efficacy of a novel water-soluble curcumin derivative versus sildenafil citrate in mediating erectile function. *Int. J. Impot. Res.* doi:10.1038/ijir.2014.24

QUALITY OF LIFE

The influence of obesity on LUTS treatment outcomes

A new study has shown that men with obesity and lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) improve more favourably than do those without obesity when given α -blockade therapy in terms of quality of life scores. The study of 96 men showed that both obese (BMI ≥ 23 kg/m²) and non-obese (BMI < 23 kg/m²) men had improved International Prostate Symptom Scores when treated with tamsulosin (0.4 mg daily for 8 weeks), but only the obese individuals had improved King's Health Questionnaire scores. α -Adrenergic therapies might offer obese men with LUTS better outcomes.

Original article Kim, J. H. *et al.* Measuring the improvement in health-related quality of life using King's health questionnaire in non-obese and obese patients with lower urinary tract symptoms after α -adrenergic medication: a preliminary study. *BMC Urol.* doi:10.1038/ijir.2014.24

BLADDER CANCER

ERCC2 mutation might predict platinum response

Whole-exome sequencing of pretreatment tumour and germline DNA from 50 patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer has been used to show that mutations in the gene *ERCC2*, which is involved in nucleotide excision repair, can predict response to cisplatin-based chemotherapy followed by cystectomy. Mutations in this gene were the only significant difference between responders and nonresponders, which suggests that impaired excision repair function might contribute to platinum sensitivity.

Original article Van Allen, E. M. *et al.* Somatic *ERCC2* mutations correlate with cisplatin sensitivity in muscle-invasive urothelial carcinoma. *Cancer Disc.* doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-14-0623

PROSTATE CANCER

Despite screening, *BRCA2* associated with poorer survival

A long-term study of 4,187 men who underwent biopsy after an elevated PSA test or suspicious digital rectal examination results has shown that patients with confirmed prostate cancer who harbour *BRCA2* mutations have poorer survival than those without the *BRCA2* mutation. The 12-year survival rate (cancer-specific) was 94.3% for those without *BRCA2* and 61.8% for those with mutations in the gene.

Original article Akbari, M. R. *et al.* The impact of a *BRCA2* mutation on mortality from screen-detected prostate cancer. *Br. J. Cancer* doi:10.1038/bjc.2014.428