

Edith Cavell Hospital Department of Urology



Peyronie's Disease

What is Peyronie's Disease?

Peyronie's Disease is an inflammatory process affecting the penis in men. It is not a disease in the sense that it is not infectious and cannot be "caught". It is NOT a cancer of the penis, nor will it become cancerous either.

What are the symptoms of Peyronie's Disease?

The usual symptoms are the findings of a hard lump on top of the shaft of the penis.

This should not be confused with a lump anywhere on the end (glans) of the penis – in these circumstances you should consult your general practitioner who can rule out the possibility of a cancer of the penis.

The other symptom noticed is a curvature of the penis during erection. This may be severe enough to prevent sexual intercourse from occurring. The penis may be uncomfortable during intercourse.

What causes Peyronie's Disease and how does the condition progress?

The cause of Peyronie's disease is not well understood. As you get older the normal elastic nature of the penile tissue is lost. Minor degrees of bending or flexion of the penis during intercourse may be enough to cause the changes which are subsequently found in Peyronie's Disease.

Normally the condition quietens down over the course of 18 months or so. At this stage the curvature of the penis should not be getting worse, and may have improved significantly. The discomfort may also settle.

What Treatments are available?

If the symptoms all resolve with time then you may not require any treatment at all.

If the curvature remains and intercourse is not possible or is painful, then an operation (known as a Nesbit procedure) may be performed to straighten the penis. The operation will not usually be necessary even if curvature remains, providing that sexual intercourse can occur satisfactorily.

What is a Nesbit procedure?

A general anaesthetic is required and you may have to remain in hospital overnight. Under an anaesthetic the skin over the shaft of the penis is carefully peeled back to reveal the fibrous lump in the shaft of the penis.

At this stage there are two alternatives: Some surgeons remove the plaque and fill the gap with tissue taken from the deeper layers of the thigh. Other surgeons, including those here in Peterborough, place sutures on the opposite side of the penis to correct the curvature. In the latter case there may be a minor degree of shortening of the penis but this is usually not significant.

Once the bruising is settled you will be allowed home, and will be given a follow up appointment to see your surgeon. You should refrain from sexual intercourse until the wounds have healed or for three weeks, whichever is the longer.

Are there any possible side effects?

Side effects of the operation are rare but should be quickly recognized. The wound may become infected, or in some cases there a large bruise can develop under the skin of the penis.

If you have any problems you should see your general practitioner in the first instance.

Any questions?

This leaflet has been written by the nursing and medical staff who work in the Urology Unit.

If you have any questions, jot them down here and ask the nursing or medical staff for answers.

Urology Department, Ward 11 - Telephone (01733) 875311

Please do not hesitate to ask the nursing staff

If you have any further questions

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