

# NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SOCIETY for IMPOTENCE RESEARCH

Nº 7 JUNE 1999

## ESIR 99: Istanbul Convention Centre October 3-6, 1999

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the recent uncertainty surrounding the ESIR 99 meeting in Istanbul in October, as I am aware of the fact that informal rumours and misinformation have led to some confusion.

As you all probably know recent political events in the capital city of Turkey have created some uneasiness with regard to travelling to the city and holding international meetings there. These worries culminated in various meetings of the Executive Committee of the ESIR with all parties concerned, including representatives from industry, in order to decide whether it would be safe and advisable to continue with the scheduled meeting in October.

Having considered all the possible risks and all the assurances from the local authorities, the members of the Executive Committee of the ESIR are fully convinced that this meeting will not represent a personal threat to the safety of delegates and accompanying persons. We would therefore like to transmit our peace of mind to all those concerned with this meeting and we count of your support to ensure that ESIR 99 is the best meeting to date.

We have put together a great scientific programme encompassing the most recent developments accompanied by varied social activities to help make your stay in Istanbul a learning experience as well as a relaxing break.

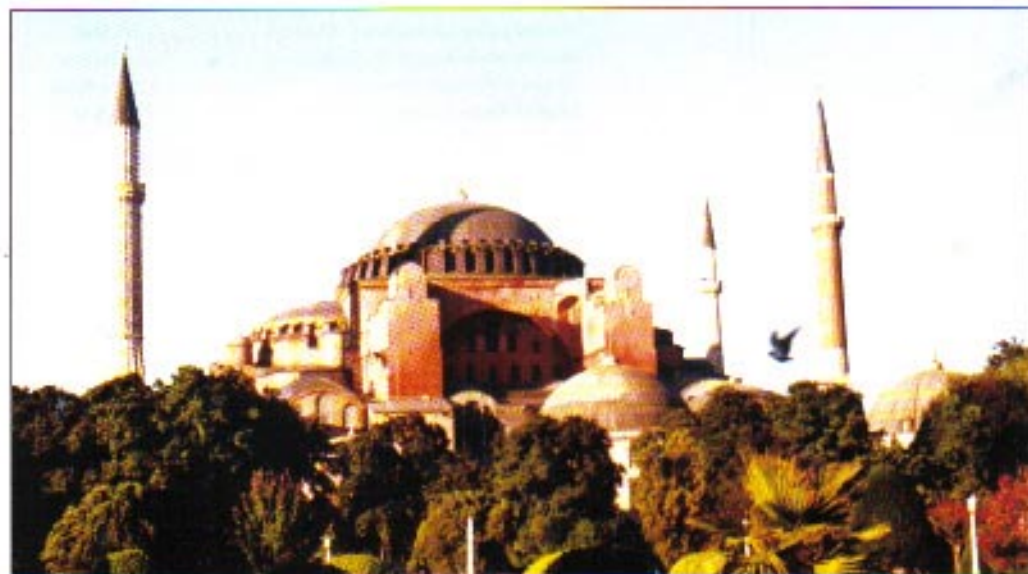
I am personally convinced that this minor setback will not have a negative impact on ESIR 99. On the contrary, it will serve to demonstrate the maturity of an organisation able to confront obstacles of this nature and overcome them successfully. We look forward to seeing you all in Istanbul.

*Iñigo Sáenz de Tejada - President ESIR*



### ***In this issue:***

- ***Editorial: ESIR 99, full steam ahead for this major meeting in the medical calendar including a summary of the scientific programme***
- ***Rome, candidate for the ESIR 2001 Meeting***
- ***EANOSD - The Greek Centre***
- ***More news in our regular calendar section hosted by Edoardo Pescatori***
- ***An interesting clinical case from the U.K.***
- ***Dimitrios Hatzichristou interviews Halim Hattat, Chairman of the forthcoming 3rd meeting of the European Society for Impotence Research***
- ***Marlboro Man goes up in smoke***



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.esir.com](http://www.esir.com)

# Istanbul Congress

## January 30th 2000, Sunday

### 1. OPERATIVE TEACHING SESSION

( Pre-registration required )

Venue: Cerrahpasa School of Medicine, Operating Room (live broadcasting to audience)

### 09.00 – 13.00 CASES

- 1- Venous patch in Peyronie's Disease **E. Austoni**
- 2- Penile prosthesis (3 piece) **S. Wilson**
- 3- Penile prosthesis **H. Hattat**

### 2. TEACHING COURSE (ESIR SPEAKERS)

#### Basic Management of Erectile Dysfunction

08.30 -10.30

A) Chairman: **E. Akkus**

- 1- Introduction, Definition, Prevalence **E. Akkus**
- 2- Mechanism of Erection **F. Giuliano**
- 3- History taking, Questionnaire **R. Lewis**
- 4- Physical and Endocrine Evaluation **E. Meuleman**

#### Basic Tests and Indications for Further Investigations.

- 5- Assessment of Vascular State **F. Montorsi**
- 6- Assessment of Neurological State **Y. Vardi**

10:30-10:50 **Coffee Break**

10.50-12:00

B) Chairman: **Y. Vardi**

- 1- General Management and Objectives **J. Pryor**
- 2- Psychosexual Counselling **T. Barnes**
- 3- Oral Therapy and Hormones **J. C. Gingell**
- 4- Erectile Dysfunction in Primary Care and Vacuum Device **J. Dean**

12:00-12:20 **Coffee Break**

12.20 -13.30

C) Chairman: **S. Tellaloglu**

- 1- Injection Therapy and MUSE **H. Porst**
- 2- Surgical Management of E.D. **E. Wespes**
- 3- Peyronie's Disease **A. Kadioglu**
- 4- Future Aspect of E.D **D. Hatzichristou**

13.30 – 15.30 **Lunch**

15.30- 17.00

17.15 – 19.00

**SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM (ABBOTT)**

19.30 – 20.30

**OPENING CEREMONY**

20.30 – 22.30

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

## January 31st 2000, Monday

08.00 - 08.30 **STATE OF THE ART LECTURE**

Chairman: **I. Sáenz de Tejada**

“Overview of current perspective of Pharmacotherapy **H. Padma- Nathan of E.D.**”

08.30 – 09.50 **PODIUM SESSION**

Pharmacological Experiences  
Chairmen: **H. Porst / R. Lewis**

09.50 – 10.10 **Coffee Break**

10.10 – 11.10 **SYMPOSIUM**

Cardiovascular considerations in E.D.

Chairman: **E. Pescatori**

Basic Concepts **J. P. W. Heaton**

PD inhibitors and cardiovascular effects **Y. Vardi**

Cardiovascular effects of alpha blocking agents

**Dr. Drori**

Cardiovascular risk factors in erectile dysfunction

**A. Ledda**

11.10 – 12.20 **PODIUM SESSION**

Diagnostics

Chairman: **J. Buvat / E. Austoni**

12.20 – 13.00 **POINT & COUNTERPOINT**

Chairman: **E. Meulemann**

Does testosterone have importance in the treatment of E.D.?

In favour **A. Kadioglu**

Against **W. Alexander**

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.30 **SYMPOSIUM**

A) **Central Mechanism of Erection**

Chairman: **F. Giuliano**

Role of the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus **A. Argiolas**

Central nitregic pathways **A. Benelli**

Opioids and male sexual behaviour **A. Agmò**

Descending oxytocinergic pathways to the spinal cord **O. Rampin**

B) **Surgery of E.D.**

Chairman : **M. Sohn**

Vascular penile surgery in E.D.-The Pros **D. Hauri**

Vascular penile surgery -The Cons **E. Wespes**

Surgery in Peyronies Disease **C. Bettocchi**

Surgical Reconstruction of the Penis **M. Sohn**

15.30 – 16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.00 – 17.15 **POSTER SESSION**

A- **Surgery**

Chairmen: **C. Gingell / V. Mirone**

**POSTER SESSION**

B- **Pharmacology**

Chairmen: **J. Chen / I. Eardley**

# Istanbul Congress

## 17.30-19.00 PFIZER SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

- "Viagra :1st Line Pharmacological Therapy for ED"
- Introduction I Sáenz de Tejada
- Viagra in the treatment of ED I Eardley
- Viagra in special populations H Porst
- Treatment of ED and referral Criteria in primary care G Hackett
- Criteria for referral to a cardiologist G Jackson
- Treatment guidelines from the 1st International Consultation on ED F Giuliano
- What guidance should be given to non-ED specialists ? I Sáenz de Tejada

## February 1st 2000, Tuesday

08.00 -08.20 "HIGHLIGHTS"

A. Allona  
F. Sasso

08.20 -08.50 STATE OF THE ART LECTURE

Chairman: S. Tellaloglu  
"Serotonin and Ejaculation" S. Haensel

08.50 -09.50 PODIUM SESSION

Basic Science  
Chairmen: O. Rampin / H. Hedlund

09.50 -10.15 Coffee Break

10.15 -11.30 ROUND TABLE

Female Sexual Dysfunction  
Chairman:G. Wagner, R. J. Levin, A. Graziottin  
K. Fugl Meyer

11.30 -12.30 PODIUM SESSION

Sexual Function & Dysfunction  
Chairmen: A. Graziottin / P. Bondil

12.30 -13.00 "SPECIAL LECTURE"

Report on First International Consultation on Erectile Dysfunction" A. Jardin

13.00 -14.00 Lunch

14.00 -15.30 SYMPOSIUM

Who needs Guidelines for E.D?  
Chairman: J. Pryor  
European guidelines E. Wespes  
USA guidelines Process of Care  
H. Padma-Nathan  
ESIR- guides J. Pryor

**POSTER SESSION**

Sexual Dysfunction  
Chairmen: D. Ralph / A. Moreira

15.30 -16.00 Coffee-Break

16.00 -17.00 SYMPOSIUM

Prevention of E.D. Chairman: D. Hatzichristou  
Predictors of ED A.M. Morales

Chronic diseases U. Simonsen

Iatrogenic ED F. Montorsi

Drug-induced ED E. Akkus

Development of prevention strategies for ED  
D. Hatzichristou

**POSTER SESSION**

Basic Science

Chairmen: G. Wagner / B. Verheyden

17.15 -18.30 BUSINESS MEETING

20.30 GALA DINNER

## February 2nd 2000, Wednesday

08.00 – 08.20 "HIGHLIGHTS" B. Alici. Popken

08.20 - 08.50 STATE OF THE ART LECTURE

Chairman: H. Hattat  
"Psychosexual therapy for erectile disorders.  
M. Crowe  
Still necessary in spite of Viagra?"

08.50 -09.10 "SPECIAL LECTURE"

The Physiology of Ejaculation S. Haensel

09.10 -10.35 PODIUM SESSION

All about E.D  
Chairmen: H.C. Klingler/ K. Hatzimouratidis

10.35 -10.50 Coffee- Break

10.50 -11.10 "SPECIAL LECTURE"

Future Management of E.D. R. Lewis

11.10 -12.10 ROUND TABLE

Patient Education  
Chairman: J. Pryor. M. Lemos  
D. Hatzichristou A. Craig

12.10 -13.10 PODIUM SESSION

Surgical Considerations  
Chairmen: I. Moncada/ F. Montorsi

13.10 -13.40 TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Basic - I. Sáenz de Tejada  
Clinical - F. Giuliano



# Meetings Calendar and Reports



*Edoardo Pescatori*

Dear Colleagues,

*Great news for us all that the next ESIR Congress to be held in Turkey in October 1999, will go ahead as planned. It will be the perfect occasion to gather our members together and to strengthen our young Society further, with the added bonus of knowing that we can do this in a fascinating city: Istanbul!*

Edoardo S. Pescatori  
(E-mail: urolpoli@unimo.it)

July 1-3, 1999 **Paris, FRANCE**  
**1st INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON  
ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**  
Contact: Prof. Saad Khoury  
Email s.khoury@wanadoo.fr

September 2-4, 1999 **Giessen, GERMANY**  
**11th Meeting of the German Society of  
Andrology**  
Contact: Prof. W. Weidner  
Urologische Klinik der Justus-Liebig-Universitat  
Giessen  
Klinikstrasse 29, D-35385 Giessen  
Tel. +49 641 99 44501  
Fax +49 641 99 44509  
Email W. Weidner@chiru.med.uni-giessen.de

September 6-9, 1999 **Cairo, EGYPT**  
**6th Congress of the MEDITERRANEAN  
UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
Contact: M. El-Dimiri  
Email Domery@link.com.eg

October, 1-3, 1999 **Boston, U.S.A.**  
**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF IMPOTENCE  
1999**  
Contact: Dept. of Continuing Medical  
Education, Boston University School of  
Medicine  
715 Albany Street, A305 - Boston, MA 02118-  
2526 U.S.A.  
Tel. +1 617 6384605  
Fax +1 617 6384915  
Email cme@bu.edu  
<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/>

October 3-6, 1999 **Istanbul, TURKEY**  
**3rd Meeting of the EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
FOR IMPOTENCE RESEARCH (ESIR)**  
Contact: Congress Secretariat PERA  
Organization  
Rumeli cad. 124/5, 80260 Osmanbey,  
Istanbul -TURKEY  
Tel. +90 212 2305535  
Fax +90 212 2304923



Email serpilb@antmarin.com.tr  
February, 9-13, 2000 **Geneva, SWITZERLAND**  
**THE 2nd WORLD CONGRESS ON THE  
AGING MALE**  
Contact: Kuoni Congress, PO Box 1731  
7 Rue de Berne, CH-1211, Geneva 1, SWIT-  
ZERLAND  
Tel. +41 22 9081855  
Fax +41 229081835  
Email CONGRESS.GENEVA@KUONI.CH  
<http://www.kenes.com/aging/>

March 30 - April 1, 2000 **Palma de Mallorca,  
SPAIN**  
**8th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
ANDROLOGY**  
**1st INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON FEMALE  
SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION**  
Contact: Centro de Urología, Andrología y  
Sexología  
c/o Santiago Rusinol, 9 07012 Palma de  
Mallorca, SPAIN  
Tel. +34 971 174733  
fax +34 971 726519  
Email cuasba@atlas-lap.es  
[www:http://www.atlas.es.cuasba](http://www.atlas.es.cuasba)

April 2000, **Cairo EGYPT**  
**1st MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS OF  
ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**  
Contact: Congress Service Center, 14 Syria  
St., Mohandeseen, Guiza - EGYPT  
Tel. 202 3371482  
Fax 202 3368304  
Email cscasf@pacc.com.eg

# Rome 2001

*Francesco Montorsi*

*Dear Friends and Members of ESIR,*

Next October we will all meet in Istanbul for our third biennial meeting which will no doubt be very successful. The preliminary scientific program looks very interesting and I am sure that all of you will make the most of it.

During the Istanbul meeting all the ESIR members will be asked to vote for the site of the 2001 meeting. On behalf of the Italian Delegation of ESIR, I am delighted to propose the city of Rome as the hosting site for the ESIR 2001 meeting.

Rome is currently being given a complete face-lift with a view to the Jubilee (Holy Year), January to December 2000. This splendid city will be an enriching backdrop to our meeting, and each one of us will have a chance to enhance our scientific background on Sexual Dysfunction as well as enjoy a short unforgettable holiday.

The meeting venue will be the Hilton Hotel, centrally located and boasting the most modern facilities. Most of the attendees will be able to reserve their rooms at the same Hilton Hotel; in addition to a number of nice hotels located nearby which will also be available for congress delegates. Special rates for these hotel rooms have already been secured through our organisation. We will also provide a regular and efficient shuttle bus service that will connect the different hotels to the meeting venue.

An unforgettable Gala Dinner is planned in a magnificent palace dating back to the 17th century and all registered congress participants will be invited to partake of this feast, free of charge. A very active social programme will accompany the scientific events and will include visits to some of the magnificent places of historical interest in Rome. Various tours to the most attractive Italian cities will round off this impressive offering.

I thus hope that you will come to Istanbul and support Rome 2001.



Chairman, Organising Committee Rome 2001

ROME 2001

# Interview with the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 3rd Meeting of the European Society for Impotence Research, Prof. H. Hattat

The 3rd Meeting of the European Society for Impotence Research (ESIR 99) will take place in Istanbul, 3-6 October. This is the major event for our Society. It is a pleasure to host this interview with Prof. Halim Hattat, Chairman of ESIR 99.

Prof. Hattat, first of all, I would like to welcome you and to thank you for accepting to give this interview.

We are a few months away from the meeting; could you give us an idea of how the organization is going?

The organization for ESIR'99 in Istanbul is going very well. We have already contacted major companies for main sponsorship. They have all confirmed their commitments. We are currently organizing the details of the main events of the Congress. The Scientific Program is decided and almost finalized.

I know that you have been working closely with the Scientific Committee of the meeting. Could you give us some information about the scientific program for the meeting ?

I am one of the members of the Scientific Committee of ESIR 99. There will be 3 State of the Art Lectures which will be presented on October 4, 5 and 6, in the morning sessions. The scientific committee has focused mainly on the Symposium and Round Tables. These sessions will be very fruitful for the participants mainly because of the experts involved in each symposium and round table.

Cardiovascular considerations in ED, Central Mechanism of Erection, Surgical Aspects of ED, Female Sexual Dysfunction, Prevention of ED, and Orgasmic Dysfunction will be discussed in detail in these symposiums. Guidelines for the treatment of ED in various countries will also be presented in the meeting. There will certainly be sufficient time for paper presentations. The aim of the scientific committee is to prepare a meeting where the impact of the presentations is well conceived and appreciated.

The field has changed dramatically during the last couple of years. From a meeting of experts in the field, nowadays it has become a meeting for many physicians, who are not involved in research, but see patients with ED. Has the scientific program included teaching courses or other activities for the above target group?

Certainly. The scientific program includes an operative and a teaching course to be held on Sunday October 3, 1999. The main target groups in these sessions are general practitioners, nurses and residents interested in the field of Impotence

Research. These courses will be presented by well know European experts of the field.

How many people do you expect at the meeting?

We expect between 1000 and 1500 participants at ESIR 99 in Istanbul.

Istanbul is the geographic and historical gateway between Europe and Asia, bringing 2 different cultures together. From a tourist point of you, I personally believe that it is one of the most exciting cities in Europe. Could you give us some information on the social program?

On October 3rd 1999 in the evening there will be an opening ceremony and welcome reception which will be held in the Congress Center. The Gala dinner will take place in a very beautiful palace which has been converted into a deluxe hotel across the Bosphorus and should turn out to be a fascinating and authentic event. There will also be daily city tours for accompanying guests including the historical sites of the city and the Bosphorus.

For those who are willing to stay on a few more days after the meeting, do you have any suggestions?

We can recommend various programs for those who wish to stay a few more days after the meeting. October is the best time of the year to visit Istanbul and other tourist resorts in Turkey. If anyone is interested in such programs they should contact:

Ms. Serpil BAGRIACIK, at the following address:  
Pera Organization & Medkon Tourism  
Rumeli Cad. Ipek Apt. 70/5, Osmanbey  
TR-80220 Istanbul  
Tel:+90 212 230 55 35 - Fax: +90 212 230 49 23  
E-mail - serpilb@antmarin.com.tr

To conclude this interview, would you like to send a personal message to our readers?

Yes.The president of ESIR, Dr. Inigo Sáenz de Tejada has already sent a letter to our members mentioning the successful arrangements for this meeting. Since day one, we have been very seriously concerned with the organization of this meeting. We are working very hard to guarantee the smooth running of this event down to the smallest detail and we are absolutely confident that it will be strengthen our professional relationship and friendship. We are looking forward to seeing you all in beautiful, exotic Istanbul.

Prof. Hattat, I would like to thank you for this interview. We are all looking forward to a productive and memorable meeting.



# ISTANBUL

Experience the exciting mixture that is Istanbul, city where East meets West, the bridge between Europe and Asia, a thriving metropolis of 12 million people -exotic yet distinctly western.

Over the course of millennia, Istanbul was the seat of three great empires "Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman " and a meeting place for peoples of many religions and cultures who came together and learned to live in peace and harmony.



Modern Istanbul resembles an open-air museum, as the pages from your history books come alive before your eyes: wherever you turn are faced with ancient monuments, mosques, churches, synagogues and palaces. Surrounding the whole city is one of the world's most coveted and most beautiful waterways "the Bosphorus" which flows 32 km. between Europe and Asia. Along the shores of the Bosphorus is a garland of charming small villages that have existed since time immemorial, once home to Istanbul's Christian and Jewish minorities. Here you can see imperial palaces, gardens, fortresses and the traditional old wooden houses, known as Yalis, that grace the shorelines of the breathtaking Bosphorus.

Ultra-modern amenities, the splendours of the Ottoman past and the honoured traditions of Turkish hospitality combine to make Istanbul a perfect meeting city, one that will impress treasured and lasting memories.

Istanbul will reward you with the comforts of home while offering sights, sounds and smells that carry you swiftly to another culture, another time.

See you in  
ISTANBUL



# What's up doc!

Marlboro man leads the way towards non-smoking virility, the new age man for the next millennium...

The drooping cigarette on the poster warning motorists that "Smoking Causes Impotence" may become as widespread a message as its predecessor, which told us that a real man wears faded jeans, is in his element in the rugged outdoors and smokes a traditional cigarette.

What's happened to the man who was willing to risk lungs and limbs to tame wild horses whilst puffing away merrily? All we know is that Wayne McLaren, the original Marlboro Man, started the ball rolling by becoming an anti-smoking campaigner some time before his death from lung cancer. Since then things have begun to swing in favour of sexual potency instead of smoking chic as the desirable image for the man of the future. It's not everyday we see the death of a myth, an idyllic image forged out of the subconscious desires of a whole generation, and this is what this poster represents.



Marlboro country always conjured up the perfect image of a man in touch with nature, strong, independent and virile, in other words the sort of man every girl dreams of finding some day. Someone, who will sweep her off her feet, set her up in a nice home and take care of her, a hunter who can kill it and grill it, a rough diamond with a heart of gold. The cigarette was an essential part of this fantasy, and as such became more and more linked to sexual images, a pouting mouth with a cigarette at the side, sharing a cigarette (Bette Davis style), smoking after sex...

So what now, where is a girl to find the archetypal macho man to fill her fantasies? Will "Vigour Man" take over? Healthy and lean, and not afraid to admit he may need a little help from his pill. Call me old-fashioned if you will, but it will take some time for the "John Wayne" model to concede ground, and when he does he won't go without a fight or should I say a light!

# Unexpected Sequelae of Surgery for Priapism

A 53-year old male was admitted with a painful priapism of 72 hours duration. No medication was involved: the patient had previously suffered with prolonged erections, lasting for a few hours. No predisposing factors for priapism have been identified. Corporal aspiration and aramine was unsuccessful in achieving decompression, therefore an Ebbehøj or modified Winter shunt was performed. This was temporarily successful, but the erection returned. A right cavernoso-spongiosus shunt was performed, which again was partially successful, the patient was catheterised post-operatively. The procedure was complicated by a brief post-operative infection and the patient developed a discharge from his urethra.

After his operation the patient was discharged with a catheter in place with arrangements to come back into hospital after one week for a trial without catheter, and again one week after that for flows as an outpatient.

The patient returned to hospital and had his catheter removed. The penis was indurated and still partially tumescent. A trial without catheter (TWOC) was successful but there was some terminal haematuria.

A month later he was seen for a review. A lot of purulent urine was still coming from the penis when squeezed so an ascending urethrogram was requested.

Ten days later the patient had an ascending urethrogram. A catheter (12 Foley) was inserted into the top of the urethra and contrast medium introduced (Niopam 200). The contrast medium filled the penile urethra and the bulbar urethra but did not reflux through the membranous or prostatic urethra into the bladder. In the proximal penile urethra there is a communication with a cavity on the dorsal side of the urethra (approximately 3-cm diameter) and this cavity filled preferentially to the urethra (figure). No urethral strictures were demonstrated although only the anterior urethra was visualised. Multiple small lucencies Fig. 2 were noted incidentally projected over the substance of the penis, dorsal to the distal penile urethra.

Are these an expected post-operative appearance?



Figure. Urethrogram showing cavity

## Comments

This diverticulum of the urethra is at the site of the corporal-spongiosal shunt and is a complication we have not encountered previously. Clinically the patient has an infection probably at this site, and is collecting urine there. On squeezing the penis a large amount of purulent discharge came out through the urethra. The penis is also still swollen but not woody hard and probably has quite considerable preservation of erectile tissue. The patient is now catheterised in an attempt to bypass the diverticulum and encourage resolution. Would a suprapubic catheter been more appropriate? Will he require open surgical repair or is it likely to heal with this conservative treatment?

R. Lockyer, T. Porter and J.C. Gingell,  
Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

# Andropause: fact or fiction?

*Eric Wespes*



Over the past several years, the popular press has become enamoured with the idea that testosterone might be a candidate for the prevention and reversal of ageing in the male. Clinical and scientific information regarding testosterone replacement therapy

in the older adult male is really only in its infancy and deserves more investigative interest from the medical world.

Data on the rate of change in serum testosterone with age are hard to come by, and are largely based on cross-sectional studies added to the considerable variability in testosterone levels among healthy older men.

The question then is, Andropause: fact or fiction?

Androgens have anabolic effects on muscle and bone density so much so that they have begun to be evaluated as a possible means of reversing or preventing some of the body decay changes seen in the older man. An increase in upper and central body fat and a decrease in muscle mass together with a decline in muscle strength is observed in the ageing male. Hypogonadism modifies bone density and can be at the origin of minimal trauma hip fracture in the elderly male.

As far as the prostate is concerned, testosterone levels can influence the development of benign hypertrophy or cancer, without forgetting that prostate cancer is the most frequent cancer in men and that its incidence increases with age.

In terms of sexual behaviour, potency, orgasmic frequency and sexual thoughts have been reported to decline with age.

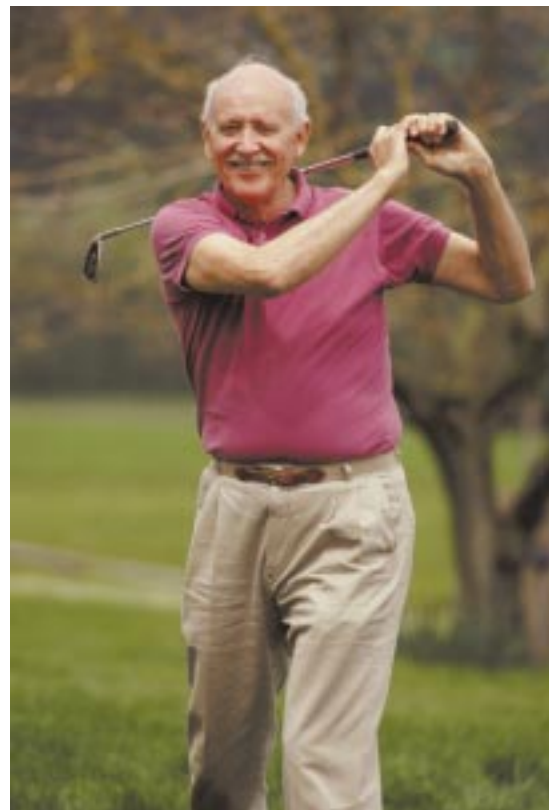
The relationship between testosterone levels and erectile function and their exact role in the physiopathological mechanism of penile erection needs to be clarified in humans and is difficult to define, especially in older men. In animals, castration has been shown to modify some neurotransmitters such as NO or the sensitivity of  $\alpha$ -adrenoreceptors.

Do these modifications also exist in man?

It seems clear that a decrease of the intracavernous smooth musculature and elastic fibres is observed in older men while the collagen fibre increases. Are these changes a result of testosterone deficiency or are they only related to ischemic factors observed in older men?

The convergence of several factors serves to highlight the need to study the different aspects of the role of testosterone in the mechanism of erection and in other systems. These include: the increase in average life expectancy of men in the western world, different biochemical and anatomical modifications observed with ageing and potential testosterone deficiency in older men. It is time for the medical community to address the issue and find an answer to the question "Andropause: fact or fiction?"

Prof. E. Wespes  
Department of Urology  
CHU Charleroi and Erasme Hospital  
Belgium



# The Centre for Sexual Dysfunction Greece

*Stamatis Papaharitou*

Last year, the European Society for Impotence Research (ESIR) identified the pressing need for patient-orientated services to handle inquiries about the causes of impotence, diagnosis, treatments and doubts about where to go for help. Since then the ESIR has worked hard to pave the way towards a European initiative to set up and unify these services in many European countries. Based on the experience of the Impotence Association in the UK, the European Alliance of National Organizations for Sexual Dysfunction (EANOSD) was established. In December 1998 the Spanish office was launched, followed by the Greek Center last February. On the 14th of February 1999, the Greek office celebrated its "Impotence day" with the official launch of a telephone helpline for sufferers and physicians, following the guidelines of EANOSD.

The Greek Office is based at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki and is one of the activities of the "Centre for Sexual Dysfunction", a University based organization with the main objective of promoting education and research in the field of sexual function and dysfunction, in both men and women.

The Centre for Sexual Dysfunction has developed 3 areas: The Information Office, the Education Office and the Research Office. The Information Office is affiliated to the EANOSD and is able to provide physicians and sufferers with all the necessary information about ED, mainly through the telephone helpline. Guaranteed anonymity for the caller and a warm and understanding voice at the other end of the line from the specially trained staff has assured the initial success of the project.

The staff of the Information Office include the manager, who is employed on a full-time basis, 2 urologists and 2 psychologists, all working part time. The manager of the office is a biologist with a Masters Degree in Human Reproduction and has been trained at the EANOSD in London. The two urologists have completed a fellowship in erectile dysfunction, while the psychologists have completed an intensive training course on sexual dysfunction lasting 3 months. An Advisory Board has been created as recommended by the EANOSD. It includes two urologists / andrologists, a psychiatrist / sexologist, a clinical pharmacologist, an epidemiologist with

experience in public health and quality of life issues and finally the Director of the Centre.

The Information Office, as well as the telephone helpline are open weekdays from 9am-2pm, and from 5-10 pm. Questions and requests to the office may also be sent through fax, e-mail or by regular post. The office distributes the



ΑΝΟΙΧΤΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΗ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ:

 031-999.099

ESIR guidelines for ED and factsheets on other sexual problems such as ejaculation problems, Peyronie's disease etc, translated into Greek by the Education Office of the Centre. These documents can be sent to any patient upon his/her request, free of charge. The distribution of the documents to hospitals, patient associations, centres for the aged and other organizations for social support, is also one of the main goals of the office.

During the first month, the Greek helpline

# The Centre for Sexual Dysfunction Greece

received more than 600 calls, highlighting the great interest for scientifically sound and objective information. The massive response to the helpline is indicative not only of the size of the problem, but also of a fundamental need for the services of a helpline. At this point, it has to be underlined that the whole project of setting up the helpline was mainly based on the experience of the Impotence Association UK, in London. The experience of the British Centre, as well as preliminary data from FI+DA in Spain were kindly shared with our office when trying to establish our own way of approaching both the public and the doctors.

The Education Office of the Centre of Sexual Dysfunction has been responsible for the translation of the ESIR and EANOSD documents (guidelines and factsheets). The Office has already organised a press course on sexual dysfunction for medical journalists and future activities include:

- a) Seminars for specific groups of sufferers, in co-operation with patient associations such as the Greek MS association, Diabetes association etc.
- b) Creation of a computerized database on sexual dysfunction
- c) A library with scientific publications and videos
- d) A web page on the Internet, describing the activities of the Centre and offering valuable information on sexual dysfunction.

Thus, the second line objective of the Centre, education and proper training of interested doctors and nurses, will be accomplished.

Finally, the third aim of the Centre for Sexual Dysfunction is to co-ordinate research programs through the Research Office, in order to bring its social and scientific services to a completion through the development of a holistic model for patient awareness and care.

## ESIR-Newsletter Editorial Board

- Iñigo Sáenz de Tejada  
Editor
  - Dimitrios G. Hatzichristou  
Associate Editor
  - Milagros Lemos  
Associate Editor
- Section Editors:
- Edoardo Pescatori  
(Meetings: calendar and reports)
  - Francesco Montorsi  
(In my country... contributions from the advisory board)
  - Hartmut Porst  
(Don't miss... Literature review)
  - Yoram Vardi and Clive Gingell  
(Clinical highlights)
  - Karl-Erik Andersson and François Giuliano  
(Basic research highlights)
  - John Pryor, Eric Wespes, Michael Sohn  
(Clinical cases - questions and answers)
  - Gorm Wagner  
(Freelance contribution)
  - Hans Hedlund and Dimitrios Hatzichristou (Interviews)
- Other sections:
- Editorial
  - New products
  - What's up doc! (Humour)
  - Letters to the Editor

### ESIR Secretariat

*Antonio Robles, 4 (9<sup>o</sup>C)  
Madrid 28034, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 358 38 54  
Fax: +34 91 358 50 45  
E-mail:*

*esir@coronadoserv.com*

Contact person:  
**Milagros Lemos**

Deposito legal M-9891/1998

Título: NEWSLETTER-ESIR

Editor:

IÑIGO SAENZ DE TEJADA

I.S.S.N.: 1029-2861

Imprime: Gráficas Mar. España