



Let's get things straight

Peyronie's disease affects one in 10 men but surgery can sort out the problem

Penile shape and size varies from man to man. Perfectly straight penises are rare. Some men will grow up with a curved penis, while others acquire deformities later in life. A bend can occur anywhere along the penile shaft and can cause various degrees of deviation into different directions.

A typical condition that leads to deformity of the erect penis in middle-aged men is Peyronie's disease. Almost 10% of men will develop this condition. It is characterised by build-up of excessive calcified plaques and scar tissue, which can be felt as a bump under the skin of the penis. The fibrotic tissue does not stretch and prevents lengthening of the penis during erection. Lack of expansion over the plaques will curve and deform the penile shaft often accompanied by narrowing and shortening.

Particularly in the initial stages of the disease, men will experience discomfort when getting an erection. Pain, curvature and the sudden appearance of lumps will scare most men. Erectile dysfunction is often associated with the disease and embarrassment, depression and relationship problems are common in sufferers.

Shape change

The exact cause of Peyronie's disease remains unknown, but seemingly insignificant trauma to the penis and genetic predisposition seem both to play an important role.

During the first 12 months after the first presentation of symptoms the condition often



DON'T IGNORE IT

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MEET THE EXPERT

Mr Christian Seipp MD PhD (pictured above) is a consultant urological surgeon with more than two decades of experience in reconstructive genital surgery.

He completed his training in Germany and he has become the lead specialist in north Wales in the treatment of men's health issues such as Peyronie's disease and other conditions affecting the external male genitals. He is an expert in urethral reconstruction, treatment of urinary incontinence and penile implant surgery.

He practises at Wrexham Maelor Hospital and offers private consultations.

changes: although the pain usually subsides after a few months the deformity can often get worse before it eventually comes to a standstill.

Men who suddenly notice a change in the shape of their penis should seek specialist attention. An experienced urologist will identify the cause of the symptoms. It is important to determine the extent of the penile deformity and assess erectile function.

Exciting and less invasive

Traditionally, surgery has been the gold standard when it comes to correcting penile deformities. Surgery aims at restoring a straight penis while trying to retain penile length and girth. In cases where the condition has caused impotence that cannot be cured with medication, the insertion of inflatable implants can restore both shape and sexual health. A new therapy

which involves the injection of specific enzymes into the plaques and subsequent modelling of the penis offers an exciting and less invasive technique to help straighten the penis.

Despite embarrassment, men who have penile problems should not delay in mustering up the courage and seeking early professional help.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.christianseipp-urology.net

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