

Priapism: A Review of 113 Cases Seen Over 25 Years at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital

Introduction and Objective: A review of 113 patients with priapism seen over 25 years is presented.

Materials and Methods: Between January 1983 and December 2007, 113 patients with priapism were seen and treated by the Urology Unit of Lagos University Teaching Hospital. The information documented for each included age, haemoglobin genotype, drug history, associated disease, duration of priapism, modality of treatment, post-operative complications and post-therapy erectile function.

Results: The age range was 2.5-60years and the mean age $27.5 \pm \text{SD } 10.93\text{s}$. The mean duration of priapism before treatment was $5.02 \pm \text{SD } 4.57$ days and the range was 0.5 – 30 days. A total of 67 (59.3%) had a previous history of priapism while 45 (39.8%) had no previous history of priapism. The time of onset of priapism was at night in 80 (70.8%) patients and during the day in 17 (15%). Priapism started during the dry season in 63 (59.43%) and during the raining season in 43 (40.57%). The genotype of the patients were as follows: HBSS = 61 (54.46%); HBAS = 15 (13.39%); HBAA = 17 (15.18%); HBSC = 12 (10.71%). The genotype was not known in 6 (5.35%). Two patients had high flow priapism while others had low-flow priapism. Twenty six (23.21%) were treated conservatively while 86 (76.79%) were treated surgically. Three patients with low flow priapism developed fracture of the penis before presentation. The associated conditions were psychotropic drugs in 8, native drugs, in 6, elevated blood pressure in 5, Alcohol consumption in 4, sexual intercourse in 4, marijuana in 4, anti-hypertensive in 4, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in 3, Leukaemia in 2, prostatitis in 2, spinal bifida occulta in 2, other associated conditions – 4. The post-operative erectile function for the surgically treated patients were as follows according to their genotype AA – 50%, AS = 75%, SS = 70%, SC = 63.6%, overall 67.74%.

Conclusions: Priapism is a relatively common condition and the pattern of associated possible aetiological factors in our hospital has not changed much. Sickle cell anemia still remains the most important aetiological factor. Drug use and Drug abuse are becoming more important aetiological factors. The post-therapy erectile function varied as the genotype.