

Baseline Potency and Desire to Preserve Sexual Activity: An Assessment of Chinese Patients for Radical Retropubic Prostatectomy

Introduction and Objectives: Erectile dysfunction (ED) is one of the commonest complications and significantly impacts on quality of life in patients treated with radical retropubic prostatectomy (RRP). There is no knowledge about baseline potency and desire to preserve sexual activity in Chinese patients undergoing RRP. These were both significantly important as they might influence surgeons' judgments about treatment decisions. This study was to assess the baseline potency and desire to preserve sexual function after RRP in Chinese patients with prostate cancer (PCa).

Material and Methods: A comprehensive medical and sexual history of 187 evaluable PCa patients for RRP was obtained on hospital admission the day prior to surgery. Baseline potency was assessed with the abridged 5-item version of International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-5). The desire to preserve sexual activity and interests to see a doctor when diagnosed with ED after RRP were described and compared.

Results: Mean age was 65.6 years (range 48–79 years). Of all patients, 75.4% (N=141) were sexually active before RRP. 26.2% (N =37) were potent, 34.8% (N = 49) reported mild, 27% (N = 38) mild to moderate, 9.2% (N = 13) moderate, and 2.8% (N = 4) severe ED. There was 65.2% (N=122) and 42.8% (N=80) of patients who had a desire to preserve sexual activity and were interested to see a doctor when diagnosed with ED after RRP, respectively. Patients with ED were significantly older ($P < 0.05$), had no desire to persevere sexual activity ($P < 0.05$) and no interest in seeing a doctor ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusions: Nearly 3/4 Chinese patients diagnosed with PCa experience some degree of baseline ED before RRP. However, quite a few patients are still interested to preserve sexual activity and to see a doctor when diagnosed with ED after RRP.