

## Penile Refracture Case Series

**Introduction and Objectives:** Penile fracture is an uncommon traumatic insult defined as a tear in the tunica albuginea of the corpus cavernosum. It occurs due to impaction of the erect penis causing a sudden increase in the intracorporeal pressure culminating in rupture of the tunica albuginea. Penile refracture is rarer still, with only 5 cases previously reported upon review of world medical literature. We present a series of 3 patients with penile refracture presenting to one tertiary centre over a six year period.

**Materials and Methods:** The case notes of all patients who underwent penile fracture surgery were collected via a search of emergency theatre and clinical coding lists from 2005–2011. Three patients presented as emergencies for both their fracture episodes. Their case notes were analysed.

**Results:** The interval between fracture episodes for each patient (A, B, C) was: A) 3 years 4 months, B) 5 years 2 months, C) 2 years 6 months. Patient A had ipsilateral fractures at the same site; patient B had bilateral fractures the first episode, and unilateral injury the subsequent time at a different site; patient C had bilateral fractures on both occasions, at the same sites. Urethral injury manifest on both occasions in patient C. Repair of all corporal defects was with absorbable PDS suture.

**Conclusions:** Current urological practice favours absorbable sutures for fracture repair to circumvent discomfort from palpable suture material. The authors suggest that non-absorbable sutures are used in penile fracture repair to allow stronger scar tissue formation to prevent refracture. This affirms the conclusions of 3 out of 4 of the previous case reports.