

Comparison of the Dropout Rates of Sildenafil Use and Intracavernous Injection Therapy: A Seven-Year Follow-Up Study

Introduction and Objectives: On long-term follow-up different dropout rates, we speculated for both intracavernous self injection and type 5 phosphodiesterase (PDE5) inhibitor treatments. This is the first study that dropout rates of both treatments were compared.

Materials and Methods: A total of 277 patients with different etiologies of erectile dysfunction (ED) were enrolled for the study. All patients had good response to the oral and intracavernous injection therapy at the beginning. There were 161 patients treated with 50-100mg sildenafil on demand. Tripletherapy(PGE1, papaverine, phentolamine) was used for intracavernous self injection in 116 patients. All patients enrolled in both programs were contacted by six months periods and invited to an office visit or a phone interview was performed. The dropout rates during successful treatment were assessed using the Kaplan-Meier method and Long rank test. $P < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results: There were 44 patients (27%) in the sildenafil group who dropped out after one year. An additional 11 patients (7%) in the second year, and the cumulative dropout rate after seven years period was 89 patients (55%). Six patients (5%) in the intracavernous self injection group dropped out after one year at the beginning. An additional 4 patients (3.4%) in the second year and the cumulative dropout rate after a seven-year period was 20 patients (17%). There is a statistically significant difference between the dropout rates of these two groups ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Interestingly the dropout rate of these second-line therapies for ED was estimated very low from the first line in our study. Reasons for this result need to be explored in another study.