

Sexual behavior and sexual satisfaction in men after radical prostatectomy

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Rationale/Background: Sexual function and sexual satisfaction remain important dimensions in men undergoing radical prostatectomy.

Research Questions: The present study aims to investigate the patterns of sexual activity and the level of sexual satisfaction in men 3-months after radical prostatectomy.

Methods: 33 men diagnosed with prostate cancer were clinically assessed before and 3-months after radical prostatectomy with bilateral nerve sparing. After providing their written consent, a clinical interview was conducted individually with each participant to assess sexual functioning and sexual satisfaction. A battery of self-reported questionnaires was filled out by the participants to assess medical and psychological dimensions (e.g., sexual functioning, medical history, and relational dimensions).

Results: Erectile dysfunction and orgasm difficulties were frequently reported by men 3-months after radical prostatectomy. Despite experiencing a moderate to severe alteration in sexual response, a significant proportion of men remain sexual active and positive about the ability to maintain a fulfilling sex life.

Conclusions: Despite the expected changes in sexual response, a significant proportion of men adjust their sexual behavior to remain sexual active at 3-months after radical prostatectomy. This study aims to contribute to the advancement of management of sexual health in men undergoing radical prostatectomy with the goal of improving their quality of life and emotional and general well-being.

Key Words: Sexual functioning, sexual satisfaction, prostate cancer, radical prostatectomy, men's sexual health.

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