



Glossary of Terms Erectile Dysfunction

Anaesthesia (general, spinal or local)	Before a procedure you will get medication to make sure that you don't feel pain. Under general anaesthesia you are unconscious and unaware of what is happening to you. Under spinal or local anaesthesia you will not feel pain in the part of your body where the procedure is done. Anaesthesia wears off gradually after the procedure.
Andrologist	The medical specialist that deals with male health, particularly relating to the problems of the male reproductive system and urological problems that are unique to men.
Benign prostatic enlargement (BPE)	An enlargement of the prostate related to hormonal changes with age.
Cardiologist	A doctor who specializes in cardiovascular diseases.
Cardiovascular disease	A disease involving the heart and the blood vessels.
Catheter	A hollow flexible tube to insert or drain fluids from the body. In urology, catheters are generally used to drain urine from the bladder.
Contraindications	Any symptoms or conditions that make a certain treatment option undesirable.
Digital rectal examination	A test in which the doctor uses a finger to feel the size, shape, and consistency of the prostate to diagnose conditions like an enlarged prostate or prostate cancer.
Endocrinologist	A medical doctor who deals with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases related to hormones.
Erectile dysfunction	The inability to get or keep an erection.
Erection chambers	The erectile tissue forming the bulk of the penis.
Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)	A treatment option that uses high energy sound waves to break down tissue.
Gland	A gland is an organ that synthesizes hormones for release into the bloodstream or other parts of the body.
Glans	The rounded part forming the end of the penis.

Intracavernous injection	An injection into the base of the penis
Localized prostate cancer	A prostate cancer where the tumour is limited to the prostate and has not spread.
Malignant tumour	A cancerous growth which either grows continuously or in spurts. Malignant tumours can metastasize, which means they spread throughout the body.
Neurologic	Related to the nervous system.
Neurologist	A medical doctor who has trained in the diagnosis and treatment of nervous system disorders, including diseases of the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles.
Nerve-sparing surgery	A type of surgery that attempts to save the nerves near the tissues being removed.
Nocturia	Waking up one or more times during the night because of the need to urinate.
Penis	A reproductive organ in men which also carries urine out of the body.
Physical	Having to do with or affecting the body.
Priapism	A persistent and painful erection of the penis.
Prostate	The gland which produces the fluid which carries semen. It is located in the male lower urinary tract, under the bladder and around the urethra.
Prostate specific antigen	A protein produced by the prostate which may increase in men with a benign prostatic enlargement, prostatic inflammation, or prostate cancer.
Prostatectomy	A surgical procedure in which part of or the entire prostate is removed.
Psychiatrist	A medical doctor specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness.
Psychological	Having to do with or affecting the mind.
Radiation therapy	A type of cancer treatment that uses radiation to control or kill malignant cells.
Sexual health	A state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality.
Scrotum	A pouch of skin containing the testicles.
Smooth muscle	Muscle tissue that is responsible for the contraction of hollow organs, like blood vessels.

Temporary ED	Erectile dysfunction that is not chronic or permanent.
Testicles	The testicles are the male organs that produce sperm and the male hormone testosterone.
Testosterone	A steroid androgen hormone that is produced mainly in the testicles and is responsible for the development of male sexual characteristics.
Urgency	The sudden need to urinate which is difficult to postpone.
Urinary frequency	The need to urinate more often than usual, generally more than 8 times a day.
Vacuum erection device	An external pump with a band on it that a man with erectile dysfunction can use to get and maintain an erection.

This information was updated in May 2015.

This leaflet is part of EAU Patient Information on Erectile Dysfunction. It contains general information about this condition. If you have any specific questions about your individual medical situation you should consult your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. No leaflet can replace a personal conversation with your doctor.

This information was produced by the European Association of Urology (EAU) in collaboration with the EAU Section of Andrological Urology (ESAU) and the Young Academic Urologists (YAU).

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You can find this and other information on urological diseases at our website: <http://patients.uroweb.org>

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