

evaluate the incidence of sexual difficulties and urinary incontinence in men undergoing radical prostatectomy.

Methods & Sample: 33 men diagnosed with prostate cancer were clinically assessed before radical prostatectomy and 3 months after surgery. After providing their written consent, a clinical interview was conducted individually with each participant to assess sexual functioning and urinary function. A battery of self-response questionnaires to assess a range of medical dimensions and sexual behavior was also completed by each participant.

Results: Preliminary findings indicated significant post-operative complications in men undergoing radical prostatectomy. Urinary incontinence and erectile dysfunction were frequently reported by men within 3 months after surgery. However, the majority of the participants reported maintaining sexual desire and subjective sexual arousal in situations of sexual interaction with a partner.

Sexual Behavior and Sexual Satisfaction in Patients Undergoing Radical Prostatectomy

Ana Luísa Quinta Gomes^a, Erick Janssen^b, Ganesan Adaikan^c and Pedro J. Nobre^a

^aUniversity of Porto, Porto, Portugal; ^bUniversity of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; ^cNational University of Singapore, Singapore

Introduction & Objectives: Prostate cancer is the most common malignant tumor in men aged 50 and over. The psychological impact of the temporary or permanent loss of sexual function, together with the weight of the cancer diagnosis and the medical procedures imposed by it, can significantly compromise the quality of life and the sexual adjustment of the patient and his partner. The objective of this study is to investigate the level of sexual functioning and sexual satisfaction in men who underwent radical prostatectomy.

Methods & Sample: 33 men diagnosed with prostate cancer were clinically assessed before radical prostatectomy and 3 months after surgery. 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-response questionnaires to assess a range of medical and psychological dimensions (eg, sexual functioning, medical history, and relational dimensions) was also completed by each participant.

Conclusions & Recommendations: Despite expected changes in sexual response and urinary function following radical prostatectomy, most men remained sexually active and optimistic about experiencing a satisfying sex life. The results highlight the importance of the development of prevention and intervention programs aimed at improving male sexual health, general and emotional quality of life, and the well-being of patients with prostate cancer undergoing radical prostatectomy.

Keywords: Sexual functioning, Urinary incontinence, Prostate cancer

Source of Funding: Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement: None

Results: A significant proportion of men reported sexual difficulties, particularly erectile dysfunction and orgasm problems within 3 months of radical prostatectomy. Despite experiencing significant changes in sexual response, the majority of participants reported that they remained sexually active and had a positive attitude about the possibility of maintaining a future active and satisfying sex life.

Conclusions & Recommendations: Intervention programs and sexual rehabilitation after radical prostatectomy are strongly encouraged as a means of assisting men in the recovery of sexual function, and to improve men's overall sexual health, sexual satisfaction, and quality of life.

Keywords: Sexual functioning, Sexual satisfaction, Prostate cancer

Source of Funding: Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement: None