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CASUISTRY

Patient satisfaction with correction of congenital penile curvature[☆]

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KEYWORDS

Congenital penile curvature;
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Abstract

Background: Congenital penile curvature is a relatively rare disease, resulting from a deviation of the penis from the body's straight axis when erect. The prevalence is difficult to determine. Although it has been suggested that the condition could affect up to 10% of the male population, most of these deviations are minor, with no clinical or psychological importance, which leads to its underdiagnosis. Effective correction of the deviation can markedly improve the quality of life of adolescents with this condition.

Objective: To assess the quality of the sex life of patients diagnosed with congenital penile curvature who underwent surgical correction.

Materials and methods: Design retrospective, observational cohort study. Data was collected from the medical records of patients who underwent surgical correction of congenital penile curvature from June 2004 to August 2016. The patients completed the following self-administered questionnaires: Sexual Quality of Life Questionnaire-Male (SQOL-M), International Index of Erectile Function 5 (IIEF 5) and "How satisfied are you with the results of the surgery? From 0 to 10".

Results: Twenty-two corporoplasties were performed to correct the patients' congenital penile curvature. The patients' average age was 23.4 years (range, 17–35).

The mean deviation prior to surgery was 47.9° (range, 20–90°).

The average score on the SQOL-M was 52 points (range, 6–66). The average score on the IIEF 5 was 22.4 points.

Conclusion: Congenital penile curvature profoundly decreases quality of life, and early surgery is fundamental for repairing the anatomical deformation and thereby significantly restores the patients' psychosocial and sexual well-being.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

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Satisfacción en pacientes con corrección de pene curvo congénito**Resumen**

Introducción: El pene curvo congénito es una enfermedad relativamente rara, dada por una desviación del pene en comparación con el eje recto del cuerpo cuando se encuentra en erección. La prevalencia es difícil de determinar. Si bien indican que podría afectar hasta a un 10% de la población masculina, la mayoría de estas desviaciones son menores, sin implicancia clínica ni psicológica, lo que determinaría el subdiagnóstico. La corrección efectiva de la desviación puede mejorar marcadamente la calidad de vida de estos adolescentes.

Objetivo: Evaluar la calidad sexual de los pacientes con diagnóstico de pene curvo congénito a quienes se les realizó la corrección quirúrgica.

Materiales y métodos: Diseño: estudio de cohortes retrospectivo, observacional. Se recabaron los datos de las historias clínicas de los pacientes a los que se les realizó la corrección quirúrgica de pene curvo congénito entre junio del 2004 y agosto del 2016. A todos los pacientes se les efectuaron los siguientes cuestionarios autoadministrados: Sexual Quality of Life Questionnaire-Male (SQOL-M), International Index of Erectile Function 5 (IIEF 5) y «¿Cuán satisfecho está con los resultados de la cirugía? De «0 a 10».

Resultados: Se realizaron 22 corporoplastias para la corrección de pene curvo congénito. El promedio de edad de los pacientes fue de 23,4 años (r 17-35).

La media de grados de desviación previo a la cirugía fue de 47,9° (r = 20-90°).

El puntaje promedio tras responder el cuestionario SQOL-M fue de 52 puntos (r = 6-66). Los resultados al responder el IIEF 5 fue de 22,4 puntos.

Conclusión: El pene curvo congénito disminuye profundamente la calidad de vida y el tratamiento quirúrgico temprano es fundamental para reparar la deformidad anatómica y, así, restaurar significativamente el bienestar psicosocial y sexual de los pacientes.

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Introduction

The congenital curved penis is a relatively rare disease, given by a deviation of the penis compared to the straight axis of the body when it is in erection.¹ It is the second cause of penile deviation after Peyronie's disease.

The prevalence of this disease is difficult to determine. Although some studies indicate that it could affect up to 10% of the male population, most of these deviations are minor, without clinical or psychological implications,^{2,3} which would determine the underdiagnosis of it, making it difficult to accurately estimate the real prevalence.

This disease presents several interpretations regarding its embryological origin according to the structures affected by the defect in development: it can be due to a shortening or inelasticity of the cavernous tunica albuginea, or due to spongy condition.

In general, the diagnosis of this disease takes place when the patient achieves his first erections, which is the moment in which the deviation becomes evident.

These are adolescent patients who are at a critical moment in their lives, in the midst of their personality development, and these penile structural alterations can have a strong impact on their self-esteem, even leading to avoidance of sexual relations and depression in 65% of the cases.³ The deformity of the penis that would generate insecurity and anxiety leading to depression, in some cases severe, has been studied.

Many of them, out of embarrassment or because of ignorance of therapeutic alternatives, delay the consultation, thus perpetuating the emotional discomfort generated by the pathology. The male quality of life is affected in its psychological and social aspects, extending far beyond one's sexual performance.

That is why, it is estimated that the effective correction of the deviation can markedly improve the quality of life of these adolescents.

Although, from a functional point of view, it is known that vaginal penetration can often be possible in the presence of a curvature of up to 80°, there is consensus to consider any curvature greater than 30° as an anatomic-functional problem, with potential psychological repercussion.³ However, the presence of congenital curved penis has a great influence and impact on sexual quality, although in many situations this is underestimated.²

For decades, corporoplasty of the penis is a well-defined treatment for the correction of congenital curved penis.⁴ The objective of this surgical technique is the correction of the curve to resume the anatomical and sexual functionality of these patients.

Aim

To assess the sexual quality of patients diagnosed with a congenital curved penis who underwent surgical correction at the Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires (HIBA).

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