



## Urinary Incontinence Following Prostate Cancer Treatment

#### Hari Tunuguntla, MD, MS, MCh, FPMRS

Associate Professor, Division of Urological Surgery

Director, Section of Male Lower Genitourinary Reconstruction, Voiding Dysfunction, Functional Urology, FPMRS, Neuro-Urology & Urodynamics Robert Wood Johnson Medical School & RWJ University Hospital New Brunswick, NJ



# Hari Tunuguntla, MD, MS, MCh, FPMRS

Division of Urology, Section of Male Genitourinary Reconstruction, Voiding Dysfunction, Urodynamics, Neuro-Urology, and Pelvic Reconstruction RWJ Medical School & RWJ University Hospital 125 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

#### For appointments and consultation: Telephone: 732-235-7775



#### Hari S.G.R. Tunuguntla, MD

#### **Urology Residency**

University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine & Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL

**Fellowship** in Lower Genitourinary Reconstruction, Pelvic Reconstruction, Voiding Dysfunction, Neuro-Urology, FPMRS, Functional Urology & Urodynamics University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine & Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL



## **Overview**

- What is stress urinary incontinence?
- Anatomy of the bladder and prostate
- Physiology of urinary continence
- Complications of prostate cancer treatments
- What happens to the urinary sphincter after prostate cancer surgery?
- Incidence of stress urinary incontinence & risk factors
- Testing of patients with urinary incontinence
- Treatment
  - Injections, male sling surgery, artificial urinary sphincter





#### Learning about male stress urinary incontinence



#### **RUTGERS** Male stress urinary incontinence (SUI)

#### What is it?

• Urinary leakage without control when a person cannot stop urine from flowing out of the body when moving (laughing, lifting, bending, etc.)

#### How common is it?

• Worldwide, approximately 500,000 men suffer from SUI<sup>4</sup>



 Nearly 1 in 20 men over 20 years of age have moderate to severe incontinence of any kind.<sup>62</sup>

## **Anatomy of Bladder and Prostate**

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Because the prostate is close to bladder, bowel, and vital nerves for sexual function, prostate cancer and its treatments can disrupt normal **urinary**, **bowel**, **and sexual functioning** 



# **Male Urethral Sphincter**



## **Pelvic floor muscles**



# **Urinary process**

• Bladder stores urine

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- Urine exits via the urethra
- Sphincter muscle surrounds the urethra
- Muscle contraction keeps urine in the bladder
- When the sphincter muscles relax, urine is able to exit the body



#### **RUTGERS** Causes and comorbidities associated with SUI

#### SUI strongly correlates with prostate cancer surgery

- Up to 50% of men report leakage immediately following surgery for prostate cancer<sup>63</sup>
- About 9–16% of men have incontinence one year after treatment<sup>64</sup>

#### Can also be a result of:4,65

- Neurologic disorders
- Enlarged prostate surgery
- Radiation
- Pelvic trauma

### **Prostate cancer treatments**

- Surgery
  - RALP/open/retropubic/perineal
- Radiation
  - External beam
  - Brachytherapy
  - Proton beam
  - Cyberknife
- Cryotherapy
- HIFU







#### Male SUI and prostate cancer treatment



#### **SUI** and prostate cancer treatment connection

- Approximately 70,000 radical prostatectomies are performed each year<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately 9–16% of men have persistent post-prostatectomy incontinence 1 year after treatment<sup>64</sup>



# What happens after radical surgery for prostate cancer ?



#### Mechanisms of postprostatectomy stress urinary incontinence (PPSUI)



Groutz A. et al., 2000, Carlson K.V. et al., 2001, Noguchi N. et al., 2006, Hubner W.A., 2009

Urethra surgically reattached to the bladder

Cuts made to remove the prostate



## **Before surgery**

# After surgery



# Post prostatectomy urinary incontinence (PPI)

- Overall prevalence continues to rise due to an increasing numbers
- Profound impact on the QOL
- Following robotic prostatectomy
  - 4-31%

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- 2 years after surgery: <10%</li>
- Following open surgery
  - 7-40%

#### SUI after prostate cancer treatment: work up

- Medical interview (history) and physical exam; UA; bladder 'scan'
- Questionnaires, pad usage (number, type, pad wt.)

#### Special tests

- Uroflowmetry
- Urodynamic study
  - Special catheter
  - Water runs through bladder
  - Pressure measured while bladder fills and while urinating; flow measured while urinating
  - Takes about 30-40 minutes



## **PPI: Evaluation**

Cystoscopy



Can we do something before prostatectomy? pelvic floor muscle physical therapy

- Effective in reducing the risk and severity of prolonged urinary incontinence after prostatectomy
- Early recovery of continence (3 months)

# **SUI after CaP treatment: how to treat?**

How bothersome or severe is the incontinence???

• Urgency incontinence



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- Medications (to relax bladder)
  - Potential side effects
- Radiation therapy can cause urgency incontinence
- **Overflow incontinence** 
  - Surgery (if there is blockage to urinary flow @ bladder neck or urethra)

#### Stress incontinence

- Simple (conservative) treatments
  - pads, behavioral changes (fluid restriction, dietary changes, smoking cessation, timed voiding, bladder training, pelvic floor muscle training)
- Surgery (injections, slings, artificial urinary sphincter)

#### **Short-term treatment options**

#### **Behavioral modifications**

Reduced fluid intake

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Planned restroom breaks

#### Intervention

- Pelvic floor physical therapy
- Kegel exercises
- Biofeedback

#### Coping

- Pads
- Diapers
- Catheters
- Penile clamps





## **Common bladder irritants to be avoided**

Bladder irritants	
Coffee	Sugar
Tea	Artificial sweetener
Honey	Chocolate
All alcoholic beverages	Tomatoes
Carbonated beverages	Tobacco
Caffeinated sodas	Citrus fruits and juices
Corn syrup	Spicy foods

# Pelvic floor muscle physical therapy



## **Pelvic floor muscle exercises**

#### **Quick contractions**

#### Tighten pelvic floor and Hold for 5 seconds. Release contraction by half and hold for 5 seconds. Relax.

Repeat 5-7 times. Do 1 time a day. \*Begin 2-3 weeks after surgery\*



Slowly squeeze pelvic floor for 10 seconds. Rest for 10 seconds. Progress to squeezing up to 15 seconds.

Repeat 5-7 times. Do 1 times a day. \*Begin 3-4 weeks after surgery\*

#### Long contractions





# **Penile clamps**

#### Squeezer<sup>TM</sup>



ActiCuf<sup>TM</sup> compression pouch



#### Cunningham clamp



C3 Penis Clamp



J Clamp



#### **Coping solutions**

#### Coping solutions can be expensive, a nuisance and become problematic.

- · Absorbent products can be costly, bulky, likely to leak and smell
- Catheters may be uncomfortable, and long-term use may cause urinary tract infections
- A penile clamp can control leakage but has to be moved often and can be painful and uncomfortable<sup>67</sup>



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## **Bulking agent injection**



## RUTGERS Long-term solutions: Male Sling System

- Undetectable to others
- High success achieved in patients with mild to moderate SUI<sup>69</sup>
- Most patients are continent immediately following the procedure<sup>70</sup>
- Operates on its own to restore continence
- 92% would undergo the procedure again<sup>71</sup>



#### **RUTGERS** Long-term solutions: Male Sling System

Acts as a "hammock" to reposition and support the urethra, restoring bladder control<sup>69</sup>



\*Patient satisfaction rates reflect research results with use of the Male Sling





## **AdVance Male Urethral Sling**



- Supports, compresses or repositions urethra
- Outpatient surgery
- No moving parts
- 60-80% success rate
- Not effective for severe leakage
- Not very effective after radiation therapy

#### RUTGERS Long-term solutions: Artificial Urinary Sphincter

#### Gold standard treatment<sup>73</sup>

#### Quality of life

- Provides proven, discreet bladder control<sup>73</sup>
- Undetectable to others
- Mimics a healthy sphincter<sup>74</sup>
- Most men with weakened sphincter muscle achieve continence<sup>75</sup>





## **Artificial Urinary Sphincter (AUS)**



# **Artificial urinary sphincter**

- 'Gold standard' (since 1972)
- Urinary control achieved in 75-95%
- Long track record of excellent results
- Simple surgery; some require revision
- 3 parts
  - Pump, cuff, balloon reservoir


## Artificial Urinary Sphincter – How does it work?<sup>70,76</sup>

• Cuff around the urethra

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- Inflated cuff closes urethra
- Patient squeezes pump to void
- Cuff automatically re-inflates



# **Artificial urinary sphincter**

- Excellent control of urine leakage in severe cases
- Most effective treatment for SUI
- High patient satisfaction



## Artificial Urinary Sphincter – Patient satisfaction



\*Non-urethroplasty patients \*\*10+yrs

## What to expect for the procedure<sup>76</sup>



## Outpatient procedure

- Small incisions, 2-4 cm
- A few days to return to non-strenuous activities
- Patient has to wait 4 to 6 weeks before using the implant to ensure full healing



## As a surgical procedure, there are possible risks

There are risks involved with any surgery.

Not all patients are candidates for a male sling or AUS.

### Male Sling<sup>81</sup>

*IGERS* 

Possible side effects include, but are not limited to:

- Device failure
- Urinary retention
- Post-operative pain
- Irritation at the wound site
- Foreign body response

## Artificial Urinary Sphincter<sup>74</sup>

Possible side effects include, but are not limited to:

- Device malfunction or failure, which may require revision surgery
- Erosion of the urethra in the cuff area
- Urinary retention
- Infection, pain and soreness

# **SUI: Timing of surgery**

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- Most improvement in urine control in the first several months after surgery
- Pelvic muscle exercises may speed this up
- Mild improvement continues over 6 months to one year
- Very slight improvement may occur from 1-2 years





# **Cost and coverage**



## Incontinence treatment is commonly covered by insurance



# **Stress urinary leakage: Take Home Messages**

- Known significant side effect of prostate cancer treatment
- Different types and causes for urine leakage after prostate cancer treatment
- Variety of treatment options
- Short-term options can be expensive and uncomfortable
- Sling or AUS could offer a long-term solution

# Living with urinary incontinence Take Home Messages

- Urine leakage has negative impact on
  - Overall quality of life
  - Sexual satisfaction
  - Daily activities and social life
  - Return to work
- Successful treatments DO EXIST with high success rates





# Living with urinary incontinence Take Home Messages

- Moderate leak: male urethral sling (60-80% success)
- Severe leak: artificial urinary sphincter (AUS)
  - up to 95% success rate
- Seek help if it is needed !



## Summary: Benefits of male sling & AUS

- The ability to achieve continence<sup>76</sup>
- Urinate when desired<sup>76</sup>

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- Placed entirely inside the body, it is undetectable to others
- High patient satisfaction\*73
- Can help restore normalcy and renew confidence



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#### CHAPTER 45

## **The Artificial Urinary Sphincter**

ANGELO E. GOUSSE HARI S. G. R. TUNUGUNTLA NEAL PATEL IZAK FAIENA

### INTRODUCTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Normal lower urinary tract function is critical in maintaining urinary continence at low bladder pressure. Up to 16 to 20 million Americans have some type of urinary incontinence with potential major psychosocial consequences. Urinary incontinence is prevalent in men, although the overall numbers are lower than in women. The Epidemiology of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (EpiLUTS) study examined rates of urinary incontinence in both men and women in the United States, United Kingdom, and

Two-stage management of severe postprostatectomy bladder neck contracture associated with stress incontinence

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