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Erectile Dysfunction

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With 156 Figures

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Preface

The basic principles of the phenomenon “erection” have been known since the pioneering work of Kölliker, Eckhard and Langley in the nineteenth century. Nonetheless, under the influence of Freud, erectile dysfunction was predominantly attributed to psychogenic factors. A more liberal perception of sexuality since the 1960s, the development of new and refined diagnostic techniques, and the expansion of basic research activity resulted in a new concept of erectile dysfunction, identifying arteriogenic, venogenic, endocrinologic or myopathic (cavernous smooth muscle dysfunction) factors. From this research other considerations such as autonomic innervation, cavernous endothelial intactness or impaired neurotransmitter pool are being introduced into routine clinical assessment. A reevaluation of psychogenic etiology with a consequential new concept of psychogenic impotence is on the rise.

In this book the new concepts of basic knowledge on cavernous smooth muscle function and its supraspinal, spinal, and local control; the new diagnostic approaches in psychogenic and autonomic factors; and the new developments of reconstructive therapeutic options for the patient have been tied together. Outstanding and internationally renowned experts in the field of erectile dysfunction have given detailed insight into the latest basic and clinical developments. Well-established diagnostic and therapeutic techniques are presented by experienced colleagues.

We hope that this book will help the reader to get an overview of the current concepts of erection. Furthermore, we hope that international collaboration in basic and clinical research in the field of erectile dysfunction will render an update necessary in the near future.

Hannover

UDO JONAS
WALTER F. THON
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Contents

Anatomy, Physiology and Pathophysiology

Anatomy of Male Sexual Function A.J. Wein, K. Van Arsdalen, Ph. M. Hanno, and R.M. Levin (With 5 Figures)	3
Neural Innervation of the Cavernous Tissue W.D. Steers (With 7 Figures)	16
Ultrastructural Findings in Patients with Erectile Dysfunction J. Staubesand, U. Wetterauer, and F. Kulvelis (With 4 Figures)	34
Physiology of Penile Erection T.F. Lue (With 2 Figures and 2 Tables)	44
Neuropharmacology of Penile Erection In Vitro G. Wagner (With 5 Figures)	57
Investigations into the Innervation of the Corpora Cavernosa Penis J. Staubesand (With 4 Figures)	69
Endocrinology of Impotence T.H. Schürmeyer and R.D. Hesch (With 4 Figures and 2 Tables)	78

Diagnostic Procedures

Psychological Evaluation and Psychometry U. Hartmann	93
Pharmacotesting in Erectile Dysfunction K.-P. Jünemann (With 4 Figures and 3 Tables)	104
Doppler Ultrasound Investigation of Penile Vessels H. Gall and G. Holzki (With 19 Figures)	115

The Penile Blood Flow Study: Evaluation of Vasculogenic Impotence by Duplex Ultrasonography G.A. Broderick and T.F. Lue (With 6 Figures)	126
Pharmacarteriography in Chronic Erectile Dysfunction W. Bühren, H. Gall, W. Scherb, G. Holzki, and C. Sparwasser (With 17 Figures and 1 Table)	137
Evaluation of the Cavernous Occlusive System C.G. Stief (With 6 Figures)	162
Monitoring of Penile Tumescence and Rigidity W.F. Thon (With 5 Figures)	171
Neurophysiological Evaluation of Erectile Dysfunction W. Scherb (With 3 Figures and 3 Tables)	178
Testing the Autonomic System J.H. Abicht	187
Single Potential Analysis of Cavernous Electrical Activity: A Possible Diagnosis of Autonomic Cavernous Dysfunction and Cavernous Smooth Muscle Degeneration C.G. Stief (With 11 Figures)	194
 Therapy	
Erectile Disorders: A Psychosexual Review M.W. Hengeveld (With 2 Figures and 4 Tables)	207
Intracavernous Pharmacotherapy for Erectile Dysfunction U. Wetterauer (With 2 Figures and 8 Tables)	221
Andropen – Intracavernous Self-Injection Pen for Pharmacotherapy in Erectile Dysfunction W.F. Thon (With 2 Figures)	236
Reconstructive Vascular Surgery for Impotence F.J. Levine and I. Goldstein (With 9 Figures)	240
Revascularization in Arteriogenic Erectile Impotence D. Hauri (With 24 Figures and 1 Table)	260
Diagnostic and Surgical Approach to Impotent Patients with Cavernovenous Leakage E. Wespes (With 1 Table)	282
Alloplastics in the Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction U. Jonas (With 15 Figures)	291

Special Aspects

Erectile Impotence Due to Spinal Cord Injury
W.F. Thon 315

Subject Index 321

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