DR. CHIRAG GUPTA | UROLOGY & ANDROLOGY

Urological Implants

An overview of penile and testicular prostheses

A practical guide to help you prepare for a conversation with your urologist. Your own care plan may differ.

What does “implant” mean?

In urology, an implant is a medical device placed during surgery for a specific purpose. This overview covers two different devices: a penile prosthesis, which may help a person with erectile dysfunction achieve an erection for intercourse, and a testicular prosthesis, which restores the appearance and feel of a testicle in the scrotum.

Penile prosthesis

A penile prosthesis may be considered for erectile dysfunction when other treatments have not worked or are unsuitable. Types include inflatable devices and malleable rods. A prosthesis does not restore sexual desire, and it may not restore sensation, orgasm or ejaculation. A specialist will discuss function, limitations, alternatives and long-term device care.

Testicular prosthesis

A testicular prosthesis is an artificial implant placed in the scrotum to restore contour when a testicle is absent or has been removed. It does not make sperm or hormones and does not restore fertility or testicular function. Timing and suitability are individual choices.

Decision-making and risks

Implants are optional and are not appropriate for everyone. Ask about the goal of the device, other options, anaesthesia, recovery, how the implant may feel, and possible infection, pain, movement, mechanical problems or further surgery. Risks differ between device types and procedures.

Questions to discuss

Which device is being considered and what outcome can it reasonably provide? What alternatives are available? What are the risks in my situation? How long is recovery and what follow-up is needed? What symptoms should prompt a call?

Sources for further reading

• Urology Care Foundation - Penile Implants
• University Hospitals Sussex NHS - Testicular Prosthesis Information

This handout is general educational information, not a diagnosis or a substitute for advice from your treating clinician. Do not change prescribed medicines or treatment based only on this document. Ask your care team for instructions specific to you.