



Letter to the Editor

Letter to editor regarding “The Natural (non-invasive) Erection Test: Is it a reliable alternative to the artificial erection test?”

It is always very interesting to read about techniques based on simple observations being introduced into surgical practice, as in this novel study by Hadidi et al. [1]. However, I have a couple of comments about this technique. While the authors describe the normal mechanism of erection as increased arterial flow into the corpora cavernosa and decreased venous outflow (as is well-known), their technique involves only manual blockage of venous outflow. In my opinion, the authors apply compression on both sides of the proximal crura and bulb of the penis, resulting in stretching of the tunica albuginea of both the corpora cavernosa and the spongiosum. The authors thus provoke a pseudo-erection with the ligamentous structure of the penis, since it is the tunica albuginea that determines the final shape of the penis during erection. On the other hand, if the deep venous drainage of the penis can be blocked by fingers and erection is achieved by venous engorgement with massage of the perineum in less than 30 s, this novel technique can be used as an alternative treatment for erectile dysfunction in adults and could eliminate the need for penile prostheses. Although this hand-assisted technique is defined as operator dependent and requires a learning curve, its routine use by the entire surgical team as standard practice is encouraging. However, almost all observations and applications should be backed up with basic sciences such as anatomy, physiology, biophysics, etc. and with

measurable-quantitative variables. Without measurable variables, any technique remains unreproducible, but an example of a subjective description.

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Conflict of interest

None.

References

- [1] Hadidi AT, Fawzy M, Sennert M, Wirmer J. The Natural (non-invasive) Erection test: is it a reliable alternative to the artificial erection test? *J Pediatr Urol* (in press). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpuro.2023.08.009>.

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