WORLDWIDE POTENCY RESULTS FOLLOWING RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY
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Potency is a major quality of life issues after radical prostatectomy (RP). The definition of potency is hardly universal. Lack of suitable criterion to define the variables in the reporting of potency rates is a universal problem and may explain the discrepancies in the literature. Comprehensive literature review was performed to evaluate these discrepancies and to suggest modifications. We conducted a Medline Search, reviewing all published reports since 1993. Any reports RP including patients who received neoadjuvant/adjuvant therapies were excluded. Results were summarized with the following variables: author/institution, year of report, mean follow-up period, type of prostatectomy, nerve-sparing status, number of subjects, and reported potency rates. This review summarized total 40 publications and most of them are from single institutions. Potency rates following radical retropubic and perineal prostatectomy ranged from 11-86%. This literature review suggests that the best potency reports include: 1) a single surgeon’s series, 2) a mean interval of 18 months or more, 3) greater than 200 subjects and 4) a higher percentage of bilateral nerve-sparing procedures. Thus, future reporting standards should include a universal definition of potency, documentation of the nerve-sparing status, a minimum number subjects, and a standard time interval of assessment.