WORLDWIDE POTENCY RESULTS FOLLOWING RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY

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Introduction and Methods: Potency is a major quality of life issues after radical prostatectomy (RP). 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 followup period, type of prostatectomy, nerve-sparing status, number of subjects, and reported potency rates.

Results: 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%.

Conclusions: 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 that 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.