LONG-TERM POTENCY FOLLOWING I-125 RADIATION THERAPY FOR PROSTATE CANCER AND ROLE OF SILDENAFIL CITRATE.
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Baseline and F/U data were obtained from 86 sexually active patients (mean age 63.5 ± 7.7 yr.) undergoing iodine-125 seed implantation (from 1997-1999) with low volume prostate cancer (PSA <10, GS ≤6, stage T1-2). Data were analyzed by the SHIM (IIEF-5) questionnaire. The median F/U was 49.7 ± 7.1 months (range 36-66). 43/86 (50%) of the patients did not use drug therapy; but only 36/43 (83.7%) could be contacted at 4 years. 23/36 (63.8%) patients had erections sufficient for vaginal penetration with an IIEF-5 score of 12.17 ± 1.76. The other 50% (43/86) initiated sildenafil citrate for treatment of erectile dysfunction at least 6 months after seed implantation. At 4 years, 74% (32/43) were responding positively to sildenafil citrate with a total IIEF-5 score of 18.3 ± 1.2. The drop out rate was 37% (16/43), 63% (10/16) due to lack of efficacy, and 19% (3/16) due to return of natural erections sufficient for vaginal penetration. Erectile dysfunction is a major long-term issue after I-125 seed radiation therapy. Sildenafil citrate can improve erections in most patients following I-125 seed implantation.