

# MEN'S HEALTH

## A Condition Affecting Men May Be A Marker For Heart Disease

(NAPSA)—More men are seeing their doctor about a condition that affects not only their intimate relationships but their self-confidence. In 1985, less than eight physician office visits per 1,000 were for erectile dysfunction (ED), commonly known as impotence. Today, that rate has nearly tripled to well over 11,000 office visits dedicated to the discussion of ED. More treatment options may be one reason for the increase in doctor visits.

Now there is another reason to see your doctor. Significant evidence shows that erectile dysfunction can be a symptom of cardiovascular illness and can act as an early declaration to the progression of disease. Doctors believe that the proactive management of ED in the cardiovascular patient provides an ideal and effective opportunity to address other cardiovascular risk factors and improve treatment outcomes.

Erectile dysfunction (ED), which affects 30 million men, is defined as the inability to achieve or maintain a firm erection. ED can be frustrating and depressive, especially if well-publicized treatments such as Viagra have failed.

In addition to being associated with heart disease, ED is considered a marker symptom for undiagnosed diabetes.

According to the Erectile Dysfunction Institute (EDi), a confidential information resource and support network of experienced doctors and nurses, ED is treatable at any age and nearly every man who has ED can be helped. In addition to Viagra, treatment options include shots, pumps and a urethral suppository. Still, all of those treatments require planning



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before they take effect, which can reduce romantic spontaneity. Many men—more than 20,000 a year—seek a more spontaneous and permanent solution: penile implant.

A penile implant not only treats ED, it resolves it. With a satisfaction score of upwards of 96 percent, patients find that a typical penile implant procedure can take less than one hour under general anesthesia, and patients can return home the same or next day.

Is an implant right for you? Your health and your partner's support play an important role as to the treatment path of this important option. The best advice is to speak with a urologist who is experienced in treating ED.

To learn more about ED and innovative treatments, visit the EDi Web site at [www.cure-ed.org](http://www.cure-ed.org) or call toll free 1-866-294-7504 to speak to an EDi nurse confidentially.