

# BEND IT LIKE.... PEYRONIE?



Peyronie's Disease is a curvature of the penis. It was first described by a Frenchman, Francois Gigot de la Peyronie who described it in 1743. It may occur after damage to the penis (usually a buckling injury) or may occur spontaneously. It is not really a "disease" in the true sense of the word.

It is the formation of scar tissue within the penis which can sometimes affect a man's ability to direct his urinary stream and may prevent a normal erection or may cause the erection to be bent. This may be in any direction and sometimes if severe may result in a "twist". This can also result in shortening of the penis.

As a result an erection may be painful and intercourse may cause pain for the man or his partner and sometimes is not possible at all. Because it is made up of "scar" tissue it may get better by itself but this may take a year to happen as the tissue "matures".

Unfortunately there are no specific medications which have a significant ability to promise a "cure". There are many sites on the internet which offer promises which are usually unfulfilled. There do not appear to be any creams or specific mechanical straightening devices which offer a reliable, scientifically tested method of improvement despite the costs of these devices.

Some vitamins have been recommended in the past but recent testing has failed to show significant benefit. Some injections of a substance in to the scar tissue is sometimes effective but this requires a number of

injections over many weeks and does not appear to be reliable and because of the discomfort associated with the treatment, the course is often not completed.

So that leaves surgery. There are a number of operations whereby the penis can be straightened. There are various techniques. In some of them the scar tissue is removed and a "tissue graft" inserted but as healing takes place by the formation of scar tissue they may not always be effective. In other words, when a scar is removed the resulting healing is by another scar and that in itself can also cause narrowing of the penis. Another technique is to take a "tuck" in the side opposite the scarring rather like dress making so it is then straight. Occasionally, if the curvature is accompanied by an inability to get an erection, a penile prosthesis is necessary. This is an artificial erection device which is contained entirely in the body which can give an erection and straighten the penis at the same time. These procedures are usually carried out in day surgery so that the man does not have to stay in hospital.



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