



# Lifestyle and male reproduction

Special Interest Group Andrology

# 4

3 July 2011  
Stockholm, Sweden





# **Lifestyle and male reproduction**

**Stockholm, Sweden  
3 July 2011**

**Organised by  
Special Interest Group Andrology**





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# Course coordinators

Sheena Lewis (United Kingdom) and Lars Bjorndahl (Sweden)

## Course description

This course will present the causal links between lifestyle choices, general male health, systemic disease and human reproductive health.

The impact on male reproductive health will be addressed as follows:

- i) prenatal influences, dietary habits during childhood and puberty,
- ii) adolescents and adults: obesity, diabetes and other systemic disorders, sexually transmitted infections and cancer therapies
- iii) alcohol, tobacco and recreational drug use on male reproductive health

## Target audience

Clinicians, paramedical staff, embryologists and andrologists with an interest in the effects of lifestyle factors on human male reproduction



# Scientific programme

09.00 - 09.30	In utero influences on future male fertility: effects of environmental chemicals and life-style- <b>Olle Söder (Sweden)</b>
09.30 - 09.45	Discussion
09.45 - 10.15	Obesity and diabetes: disease and treatment effects on male fertility – <b>Stefan Arver (Sweden)</b>
10.15 - 10.30	Discussion
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 11.30	STIs – <b>Falk R. Ochsendorf (Germany)</b>
11.30 - 11.45	Discussion
11.45 - 12.15	Genetically determined susceptibility to iatrogenic therapies – <b>Yvonne Lundberg-Giwercman (Sweden)</b>
12.15 - 12.30	Discussion
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 14.00	Cancer: impact of disease and therapy on male fertility – <b>Bernard Robaire (Canada)</b>
14.00 - 14.15	Discussion
14.15 - 14.45	Recreational drugs (smoking, alcohol and cannabis) – <b>Sheena Lewis (United Kingdom)</b>
14.45 - 15.00	Discussion
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 16.00	Good sperm, good brain? – <b>Arand Pierce (United Kingdom)</b>
16.00 - 16.15	Discussion
16.15 - 16.45	Exercise: Fit sperm? – <b>Diana Vaamonde (Spain)</b>
16.45 - 17.00	Discussion







**ESHRE – European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology**

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**What is ESHRE?**

ESHRE was founded in 1985 and its **Mission Statement** is to:

- promote interest in, and understanding of, reproductive science
- facilitate research and dissemination of research findings in human reproduction and embryology to the general public, scientists, clinicians and patient associations.
- inform policy makers in Europe
- promote improvements in clinical practice through educational activities
- develop and maintain data registries
- implement methods to improve safety and quality assurance



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**Executive Committee 2009/2011**

Chairman	• Luca Gianaroli	Italy
Chairman Elect	• Anna Veiga	Spain
Past Chairman	• Joep Geraedts	Netherlands
	• Jean François Guérin	France
	• Timur Gürgan	Turkey
	• Ursula Eichenlaub-Ritter	Germany
	• Antonis Makrigiannakis	Greece
	• Miodrag Stojkovic	Serbia
	• Anne-Maria Suikkari	Finland
	• Carlos Plancha	Portugal
	• Françoise Shenfield	United Kingdom
	• Etienne Van den Abbeel	Belgium
	• Jolieneke Schoonenberg-Pomper	Netherlands
	• Veljko Vlasisavljevic	Slovenia
	• Søren Ziebe	Denmark



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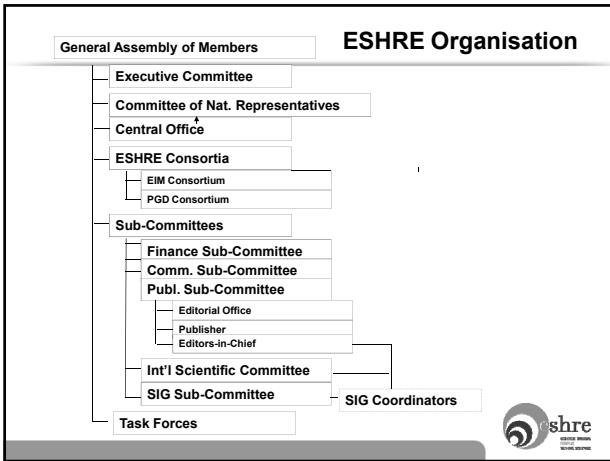
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### ESHRE Journals



*Human Reproduction with impact factor 3.859*



*Human Reproduction Update with impact factor 7.042*



*Molecular Human Reproduction with impact factor 3.005*


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### Campus Activities and Data Collection

Campus / Workshops

- Meetings are organised across Europe by Special Interest Groups and Task Forces
- Visit [www.eshre.eu](http://www.eshre.eu) under CALENDAR

Data collection and monitoring

- European IVF Monitoring Group data collection
- PGD Consortium data collection




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### ESHRE Activities

- Embryology Certification
- Guidelines
- Position papers
- News magazine “Focus on Reproduction”



ESHRE Clinical Embryologist Certification Exam Page 1 of 10  
 28 June 2009, Amsterdam  
**Clinical Embryology Certification Examination**

1. Which of the following statements is true?  
 Numbers:

a. A centriole from the sperm forms the zygote.  
 b. The zygote loses the mitochondria.  
 c. Polyspermic oocytes divide to form two embryos.  
 d. Major activation of the human embryo occurs at fertilisation.

28 June 2009, Amsterdam  
 www.eshre.eu  
 ESHRE Pages  
 Revised guidelines for good practice in IVF laboratories  
 14. Cristina Magli, Shireen Younis Al-Jawfi, Sorrel Louche, Neelke Doorn, Jörgen Van Der Auwera and Luca Giussani for Committee of the Special Interest Group on Ethics and Law  
 Contact: Shireen Younis Al-Jawfi, ESHRE Secretariat, Office for Regulatory Affairs, Leidschendam 01, 1765 Roodendaal, The Netherlands  
 www.eshre.eu




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### ESHRE COMMUNITY



RSS feeds for news in reproductive medicine



Since launch 12/2009: **1,360 Fans**



Since launch 12/2009: **190 followers**  
 (journalists, scientific organisations, patient societies, governmental bodies)



Retweets to MHR



Find a member




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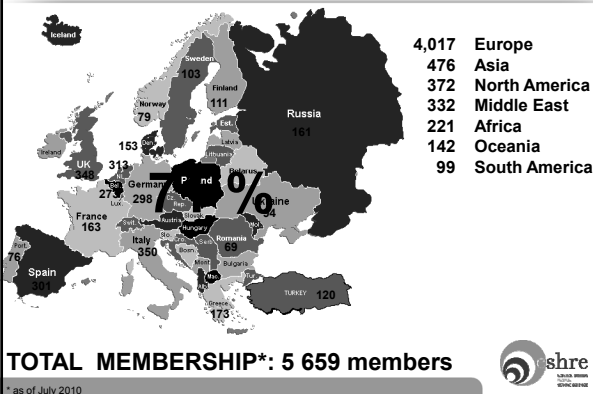
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### ESHRE Membership (1/3)




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### ESHRE Membership (2/3)

	1 yr	3 yrs
Ordinary Member	€ 60	€ 180
Paramedical Member*	€ 30	€ 90
Student Member**	€ 30	N.A.

\*Paramedical membership applies to support personnel working in a routine environment such as nurses and lab technicians.  
 \*\*Student membership applies to undergraduate, graduate and medical students, residents and post-doctoral research trainees.




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### ESHRE Membership – Benefits (3/3)

1) Reduced registration fees for all ESHRE activities:

Annual Meeting	Ordinary	€ 480	(€ 720)
	Students/Paramedicals	€ 240	(€ 360)
Workshops*	All members	€150	(€ 250)

2) Reduced subscription fees to all ESHRE journals – e.g. for Human Reproduction €191 (€ 573!)

3) ESHRE monthly e-newsletter

4) News Magazine "Focus on Reproduction" (3 issues p.a.)

5) Active participation in the Society's policy-making

\*workshop fees may vary




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### Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The SIGs reflect the scientific interests of the Society's membership and bring together members of the Society in sub-fields of common interest

Andrology	Psychology & Counselling
Early Pregnancy	Reproductive Genetics
Embryology	Reproductive Surgery
Endometriosis / Endometrium	Stem Cells
Ethics & Law	Reproductive Endocrinology
Safety & Quality in ART	




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## Task Forces

A task force is a unit established to work on a single defined task / activity

- Fertility Preservation in Severe Diseases
- Developing Countries and Infertility
- Cross Border Reproductive Care
- Reproduction and Society
- Basic Reproductive Science
- Fertility and Viral Diseases
- Management of Infertility Units
- PGS
- EU Tissues and Cells Directive



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## ESHRE – Annual Meeting

- One of the most important events in reproductive science
- Steady increase in terms of attendance and of scientific recognition

### Track record:

ESHRE 2010 – Rome: 9,204 participants  
ESHRE 2009 – Amsterdam: 8,055 participants  
ESHRE 2008 – Barcelona: 7,559 participants

### Future meetings:

ESHRE 2011 – Stockholm, 3-6 July 2011  
ESHRE 2012 – Istanbul, 1-4 July 2012



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## ESHRE 2011, Stockholm, Sweden

**When:** 3 - 6 July 2011

**Where:** Stockholmsmässan,  
Mässvägen 1, Älvsjö, Sweden  
[www.stockholmsmassan.se](http://www.stockholmsmassan.se)



**Chair of conference:** Kersti Lundin

**Hotel and Travel:**  
MCI - Stockholm Office  
Phone: +46 (0)8 54651500  
E-mail: [eshre@mci-group.com](mailto:eshre@mci-group.com)



For updates visit [www.eshre.eu](http://www.eshre.eu)



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## ESHRE 2011, Stockholm

### Keynote Lectures

***Aneuploidy in humans: what we know and we wish we knew – Terry Hassold (USA)***

### Historical Lecture

***A brave new world with a brave old humankind; quo vadimus – E. Diczfalusy (SE)***

### MHR Symposium – The paternal genome

***Sperm chromatin packaging – B. Robaire (CDN)***

***The human sperm epigenome – B. Cairns (USA)***



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## ESHRE 2011, Stockholm: Debates

**This house believes that obese women should not receive treatment until they have lost weight**

- **Yes: Mark Hamilton (UK)**
- **No: Guido de Wert (NL) - TBC**

**Paramedical invited session: Should we pay donors?**

- **Yes: Herman Tournaye (BE)**
- **No: Laura Witjens (UK)**



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## Annual Meeting – Pre-Congress Courses

- PCC 1: The challenges of embryo transfer (Paramedical Group)
- PCC 2: The blastocyst: perpetuating life (SIG Embryology and SIG Stem Cells)
- PCC 3: From genes to gestation  
(SIG Early Pregnancy and SIG Reproductive Genetics)
- PCC 4: Lifestyle and male reproduction (SIG Andrology)
- PCC 5: Ovarian ageing (SIG Reproductive Endocrinology)
- PCC 6: The impact of the reproductive tract environment on implantation success (SIG Endometriosis/Endometrium)
- PCC 7: Adhesion prevention in reproductive surgery  
(SIG Reproductive Surgery)



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### Annual Meeting – Pre-congress Courses

- PCC 8: Theory and practice update in third party reproduction (SIG Psychology and Counselling)
- PCC 9: Ethical aspects of non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (SIG Ethics & Law)
- PCC 10: Patient-centered fertility services (SIG SQUART)
- PCC 11: Clinical management planning for fertility preservation in female cancer patients (TF Basic Science and TF Preservation in Severe Disease in collaboration with the US OncoFertility Consortium)
- PCC 12: Opportunities for research in female germ cell biology (TF Basic Science)



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### Annual Meeting – Pre-congress courses

- PCC 13: Assisted reproduction in couples with HIV (TF Fertility and Viral Diseases)
- PCC 14: Prevention of infertility – from preconception to post-menopause (TF Reproduction and Society)
- PCC 15: Hot topics in male and female reproduction (ASRM exchange course)
- PCC 16: Academic Authorship programme (Associate Editors ESHRE journals)
- PCC 17: Science and the media, an introduction to effective communication with the media (Communications SubCommittee ESHRE)



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### Certificate of attendance

- 1/ Please fill out the evaluation form during the campus
- 2/ After the campus you can retrieve your certificate of attendance at [www.eshre.eu](http://www.eshre.eu)
- 3/ You need to enter the results of the evaluation form online
- 4/ Once the results are entered, you can print the certificate of attendance from the ESHRE website
- 5/ After the campus you will receive an email from ESHRE with the instructions
- 6/ You will have TWO WEEKS to print your certificate of attendance



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## Contact



ESHRE Central Office  
Tel: +32 (0)2 269 09 69  
[info@eshre.eu](mailto:info@eshre.eu) / [www.eshre.eu](http://www.eshre.eu)



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In utero influences on future male fertility: Effects of environmental chemicals and life-style

Olle Söder, MD, PhD

Professor of Pediatrics  
Paediatric Endocrinologist  
Paediatric Endocrinology Unit  
Department of Women's and Children's Health  
Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm, Sweden

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Disclosure:

The speaker has received honorarium/grants for consultancy, educational assignments and research projects from the following pharmaceutical companies:

**Novo Nordisk**  
**Ferring**  
**Ipsen**

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Learning Objectives:

- Basic aspects of male prenatal sexual differentiation
- Sensitive periods of male sex development
- Adverse trends in male reproductive functions
- Definition and concepts of endocrine disruptors (EDCs)
- Potential targets of EDCs affecting male reproduction
- Knowledge gaps of EDCs

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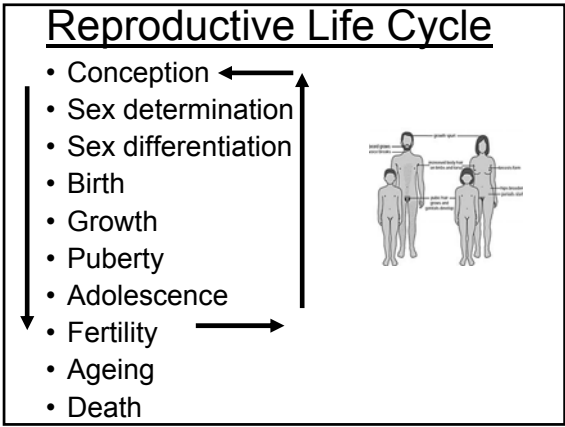
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### Chronology of early steps in human sex differentiation

Event (start)	Age (dpc)	CRL (mm)
• Genetic sex (fertilisation)	0	
• PGC differentiation and migration	28	4
• Formation of gonadal ridge	32	5
• PGCs reach gonadal ridge	37	10
• Sex determination	♂ testis 43	15
	♀ ovary 49	20
• Leydig cells appear	55	30
• Androgen, INSL3; estrogen	63	40
• Testicular descent (1st phase)	64	

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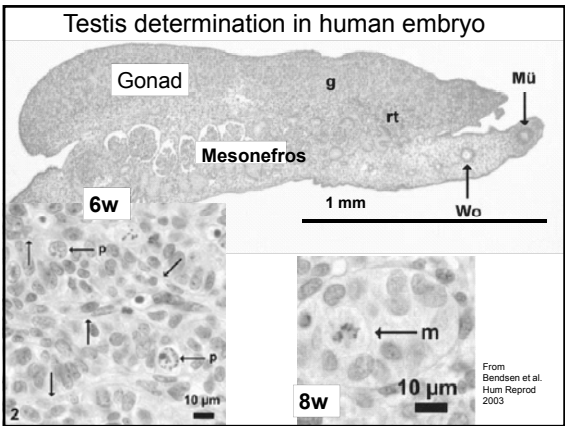
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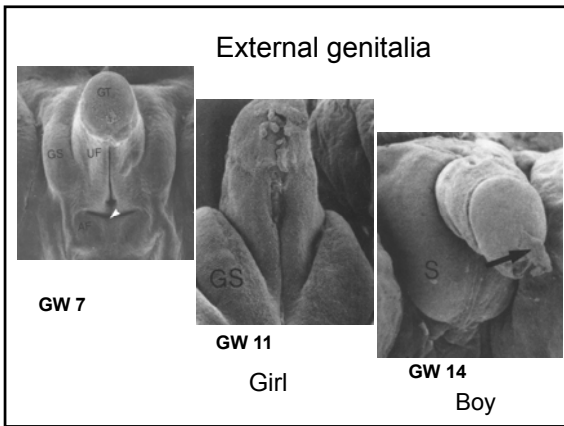
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### Differentiation of external genitalia

**Homologous structures:**  
 Glans penis = Clitoris  
 Corpus penis = Labiae min.  
 Scrotum = Labiae maj.

**Due to androgen action**  
 T/DHT + AR (5 $\alpha$ -R!)

T to ♀ = virilisation  
 Too little T to ♂ = Incomplete masculinization

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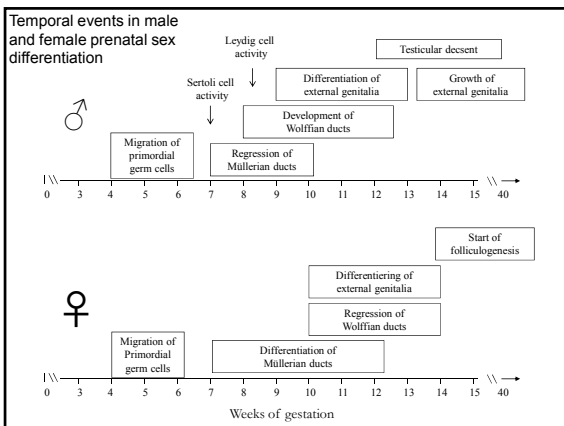
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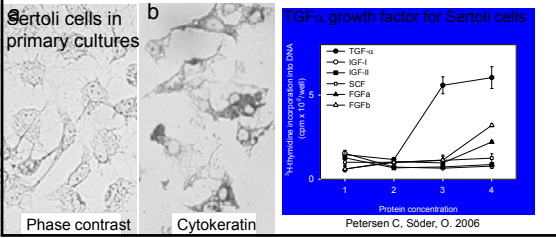
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## Sertoli cells critical for testis development

Adult Sertoli cell number determines testicular size and volume of spermatogenesis (sperm output)




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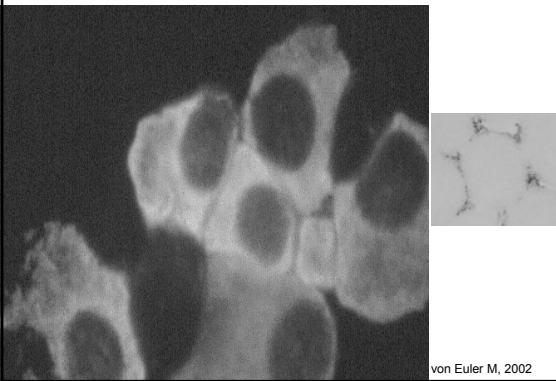
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## Leydig cells produce androgen




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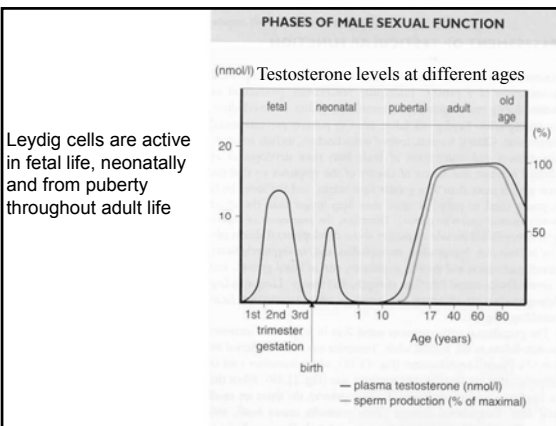
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Leydig cells are active in fetal life, neonatally and from puberty throughout adult life

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## Hormonal status of the human fetus

♂ Androgen↑  
Estrogen~ (= ♀)

♀ Estrogen~  
Androgen↓ (active protection)

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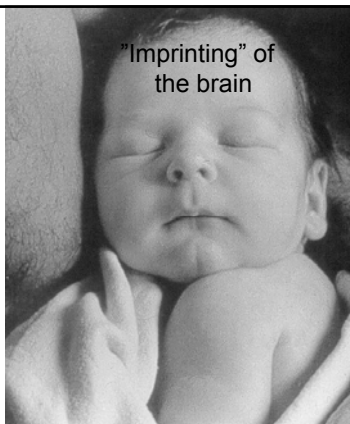
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Gender dimorphic differentiation of the brain important part of human sex differentiation:

- Prenatal
  - genetic
  - hormonal
- Postnatal
  - neonatal?
  - pubertal

Affects:  
- psychosexual identity  
- behavior



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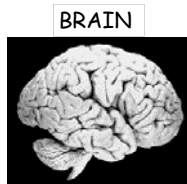
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Pre- and postnatal development of the



Gender specific brain differentiation  
Gender-typic behaviour



Gender identity disorder?

Meyer-Bahlburg HF et al., 2004

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Androgen-sensitive events in male prenatal sex differentiation

- Development of male external genitalia
- Testicular descent
- Development of male internal (Wolffian) structures
- Priming of male-type metabolism
- Differentiation of the CNS

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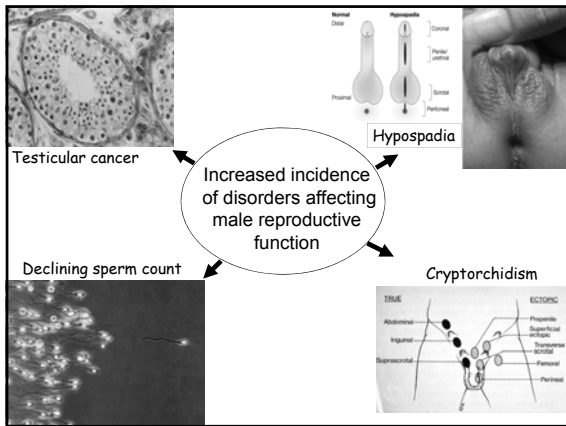
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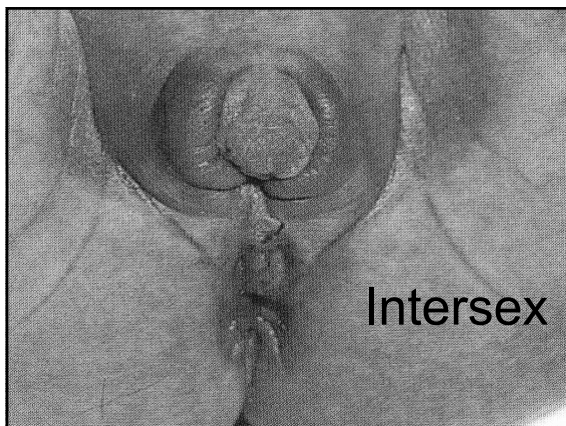
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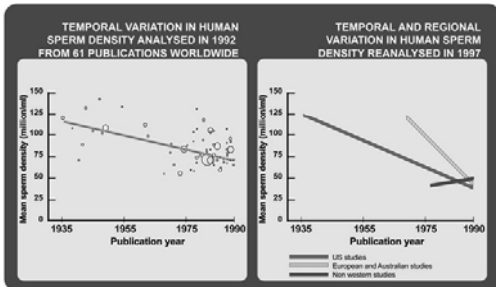
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## Decline in human sperm count




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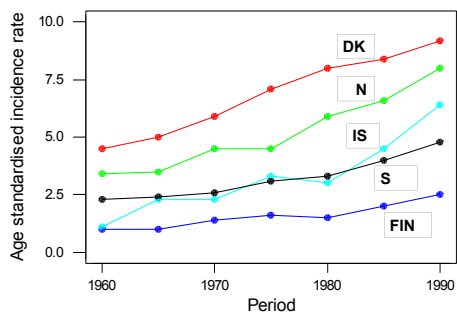
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## Increasing incidence of testicular cancer




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## Undescended Testicles (Cryptorchidism)

### Most common malformation in boys

Androgen-dependent 2nd phase of testis mostly affected. Anti-androgens?

Poor data in old incidence studies

Danish-Finnish study shows great regional variability mirroring incidence of testicular cancer:

4x > birth incidence Denmark vs. Finland  
 4x increase in Denmark since 1950s



(Boisen et al, 2004)

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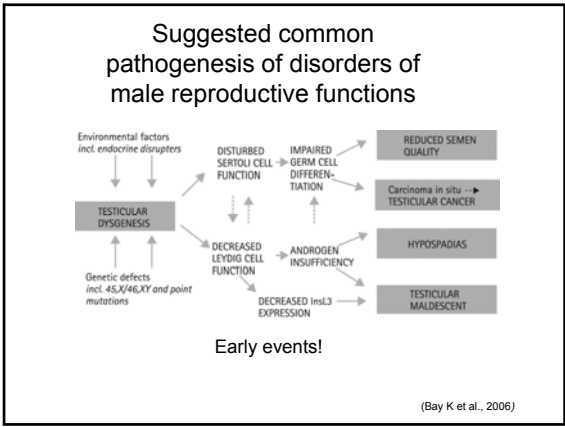
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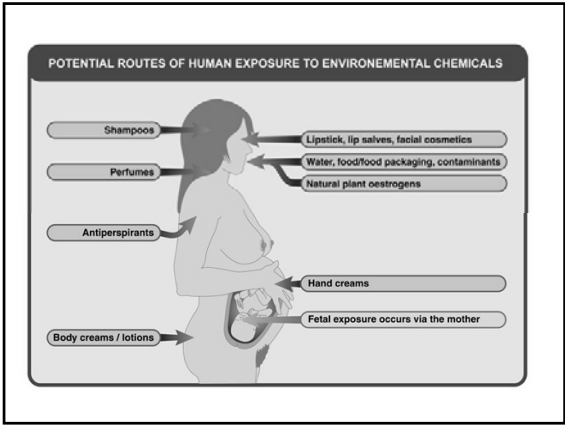
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- ### Global perspective on synthetic chemicals
- >100,000 man-made chemicals
  - 400 million tonnes yearly production
  - 85% no safety information
  - 300 synthetic chemicals in human blood (incl. in blood of EU Commissioners -WWF)
  - Higher levels of “modern” chemicals in children in “three generations study” (WWF Detox)
  - >200 chemicals in cord blood ([www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2](http://www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2))

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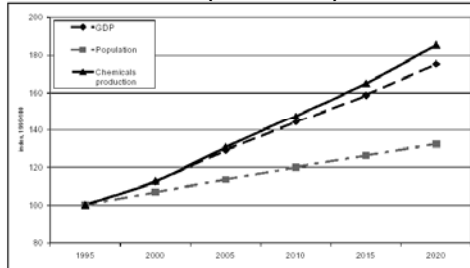
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### Estimated increase of chemicals production, world population, and GDP (1995-2020)



OECD 2001

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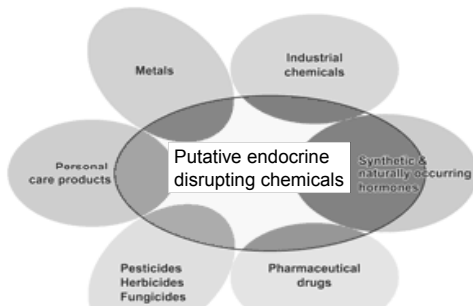
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### Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs)



EDCs are chemicals common in the environment such as pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter drugs, natural hormones, personal care products like soaps and cosmetics, industrial by-products, plastics and pesticides.

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### Endocrine disrupters

*(endocrine disruptor, endocrine modulators, endocrine toxicants, hormonally active chemicals, hormone mimics)*

**Kavlock et al., 1996:** "an exogenous agent that interferes with the production, release, transport, metabolism, binding, action or elimination of natural hormones in the body responsible for the maintenance of homeostasis and the regulation of developmental processes"

**WHO, 2002:** "an exogenous substance or mixture that alters function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations"

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Putative EDCs have structures akin to hormones, and include:

- Several **pesticides** and their breakdown products that are now banned, such as DDT
- PCBs**, a persistent group of chemicals still found in electrical equipment that pollutes lake and stream sediments in many industrial regions
- Dioxins**, a group of toxic chemical byproducts from paper production and incineration
- Compounds used in plastics such as **phthalates** and **bisphenol A**.

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### EDCs *CONT'D*

- Several naturally occurring substances such as **phytoestrogens** (e.g., soy isoflavones – genestein) and **anti oxidants** (e.g., resveratrol)
  - Fungicides** used in fruit (e.g., vinclozolin)
  - Brominated **flame retardants**
- ...and many more

Important chemicals of "modern life". Often small lipophilic molecules that pass cell membranes and are easily absorbed not only via food and water, but also through the skin or by inhalation

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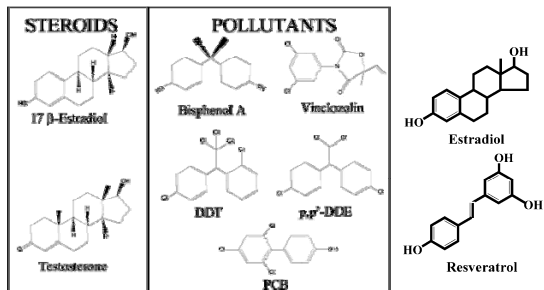
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Many EDCs structurally similar to steroid hormones



Supornsilchai V et al. 2005

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## Classification of Endocrine Disruptors

Hormone-modulating effects of EDCs:

1. estrogenic activity, e.g., phytoestrogens
2. anti-androgenic activity, e.g., pesticides
3. anti-estrogenic activity
4. androgenic activity
5. thyroid hormonal effects

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## Evidence base for endocrine disrupting actions

1. Chemicals found in environment
2. Exposure data (wild life, humans, human fetuses)
3. Epidemiology of disorders (genital malformations, sperm counts, etc.)
4. "Disease" related to exposure
  - a. Wild life (fish, reptiles, birds, whales, turtles, etc.)
  - b. Experimental animals ("proof of concept")
  - c. Humans disorders

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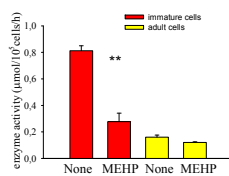
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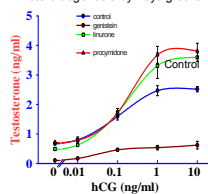


### Proof-of-principle studies in exp. animals (primary cultures)

Phthalates suppress 5 $\alpha$ -reductase in immature but not adult Leydig cells *in vitro*



Effect of EDCs on hCG-induced steroidogenesis by Leydig cells *ex vivo*



See, Svechnikov et al. 2010

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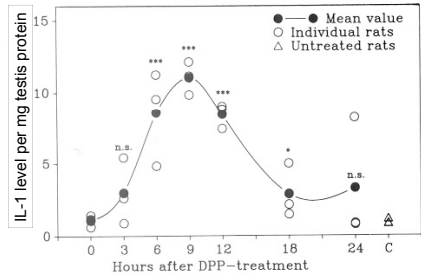
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Cytokine level in rat testis after single oral dose of di-penthyl-phthalate



Granhölm et al. 1992

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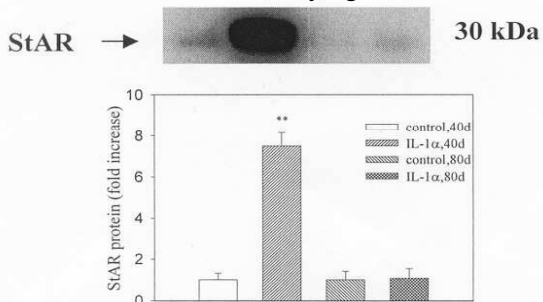
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IL-1 $\alpha$  induces StAR expression in immature but not adult Leydig cells



See, Svechnikov et al., 2010

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Late changes in timing of onset of puberty




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**Proposed causes of changes of pubertal timing**

1. Nutritional (obesity/anorexia; cf., secular trend)
2. Psychosocial ("exposure to a sexualized society")
3. Environmental (EDCs)
4. Combinations of above
5. Wrong diagnosis ("breast" in obesity)

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**Exposure to EDCs and timing of puberty in human beings**

Reported effect	Sex	EDC	Exposure	Ref.
<b>Earlier onset</b>				
Menarche, pubarche	F	PBBs	Prenatal	Blanck et al. -00
Theiarche	F	Phthalates	Childhood	Colon et al. -00
Menarche	F	DDE	Prenatal	Vasiliu et al. -04
CPP	F	DDE	Pre-/postnatal?	Krstevska-K et al. -01
<b>Later onset</b>				
Breast stage	F	Dioxin	Childhood	Den Hond et al. -02
Pub. stage, test. vol.	M	PCBs	Childhood	Den Hond et al. -02
Genital stage	M	PCBs, PCDFs	Prenatal	Guo et al. -04
Pub. stage, menarche	F	Lead	Childhood	Wu et al., Selevan et al. -03
<b>No association</b>				
Pub. stage	F,M	PCBs	Prenatal, lactat.	Gladen et al. -00
Menarche, pub. stage	F,M	DDE	Prenatal, lactat.	Gladen et al. -00
Pub. stage, test. vol.	M	PCBs	Prenatal	Mol et al. -02
Menarche, pub. stage	F	Dioxin, PCBs	Childhood	Den Hond et al. -02
Menarche	F	PCBs	Prenatal	Vasiliu et al. -04
Menarche	F	Dioxin	Prepubertal	Warner et al. -04

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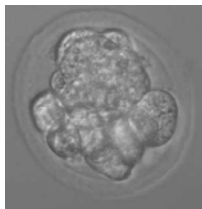
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**Stem cells novel target for EDC actions?**



Goldman-Johnson DR et al. 2008

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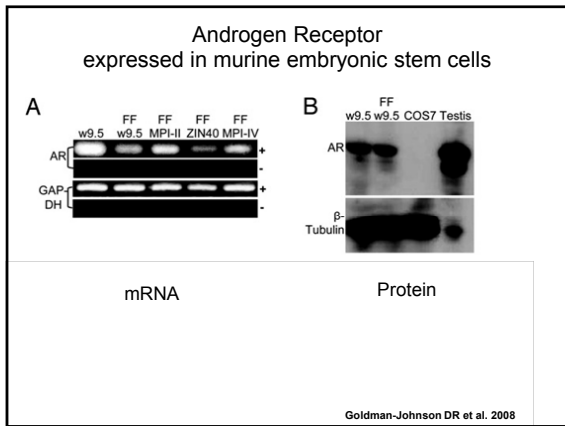
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**Knowledge gaps**

Still poor data (incl. low power) on:

- environmental contamination of chemicals
- human exposure
- fetal exposure
- reporting of congenital malformations
  
- neurocognitive disorders
- gender identity
- fertility, sperm counts
  
- effects of low doses/complex mixtures rather than single substances

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**Preventive strategies**

Proactive attitude

Fill the knowledge gaps

Precautionary principle

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Letter. Assessing chemical risk: societies offer expertise. *Science* 331: 1136, 2011

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Petersen C, Soder O. The sertoli cell—a hormonal target and 'super' nurse for germ cells that determines testicular size. *Horm Res.* 2006;66(4):153-61.

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Rey R, Josojo N. [www.endotext.org/pediatrics/index.htm](http://www.endotext.org/pediatrics/index.htm) Chapter 7. Sexual Differentiation Last Updated: April 10, 2007

Skakkebaek NE, Rajpert-De Meyts E, et al. Testicular cancer trends as 'whistle blowers' of testicular developmental problems in populations. *Int J Androl* 2007 30: 193-204.

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## Obesity and Diabetes: disease and effects on male fertility

Stefan Arver MD, PhD  
Assoc Professor, Director  
Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine  
Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm, Sweden

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## Theme of the Lecture

- Male reproductive function depends on Spermatogenesis producing “fertile spermatozoa”  
Ejaculation of “healthy gamets”  
Erectile function sufficient for intercourse  
Sexual drive and sufficient frequency of gamet delivery
- Fertile female partner with similar interest

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## Diabetes and Obesity

- Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal axis
- Spermatogenesis
- Ejaculatory Function
- Sexual function
- Psycho-social impact of Obesity and Diabetes
- Co-morbidities and pharmacological
- Susceptibility to environmental factors

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## Solution?

IVF – ICSI

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### Insulin dependant diabetes mellitus: implications for male reproductive function

	Group	Diabetic (n = 27)	P-value	WHO <sup>a</sup> normal
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>	Control (n = 29)	34.0 ± 2.0	0.52	
%HbA1c (N) <sup>c</sup>		8.2 ± 0.2	<0.0001	
Semen volume (ml) <sup>b</sup>		2.6 ± 0.3	<0.05	2-4
Sperm concentration (10 <sup>6</sup> ml <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>		64 (30-151)	0.22	>20
Total sperm output (10 <sup>6</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>		198 (99-450)	0.84	—
Motility (N) <sup>b</sup>		46.0 ± 4.2	0.79	>50
Normal morphology (N) <sup>b</sup>		11.1 ± 0.6	0.56	>14

<sup>a</sup>World Health Organization normal reference values (WHO, 1999).  
<sup>b</sup>Values expressed as mean ± SEM.  
<sup>c</sup>Values expressed as median [inter-quartile range].

Agbaje I et al. Hum. Reprod. 2007;22:1871-1877

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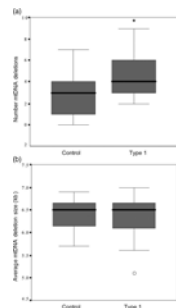
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### A boxplot comparing mtDNA deletions in sperm from control (n = 29) and diabetic men (n = 27, Type 1 diabetes mellitus) (a) mtDNA deletion number.



Agbaje I et al. Hum. Reprod. 2007;22:1871-1877

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Human  
Reproduction

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Table 2. Assisted reproductive outcomes by treatment. Values are n (%).<sup>a</sup>

Treatment	Patients	Cycles	Eggs harvested	Eggs fertilized	Normally fertilized eggs	Embryo transfers	Clinical pregnancies /cycle	Overall clinical pregnancies /cycle BRFC (2007) <sup>a</sup>
VF	6	12	66	45 (68)	35 (78)	12	0	119/438 (27.2)
CSI	13	20	198	123 (62)	110 (89)	18	1 (5)	91/316 (28.8)
FET	5	7	—	—	—	7	2 (29)	30/141 (21.3)
Total	18 <sup>b</sup>	39	264	168	145	37	3	240/895 (26.8)

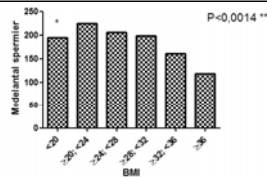
J Mulholland C Mallidis I Agbaje and N McClure *Reproductive BioMedicine Online*  
Volume 22, Issue 2, February 2011, Pages 215-219

Genes with most significantly altered expression found in DM men compared with non-DM fertile men. *Oxidative Stress and DNA repair*

Gene	Known functions <sup>a</sup>	Fold change	P <sup>a</sup>
PP5A	Intracellular signaling	4345	.002
Septin 4	Sperm structure/movement	1139	.002
Eukaryot. transl. initiation factor 4 1	mRNA translation	526	.004
Interleukin 1 receptor, type II	Cytokine response prevention	218	.004
Murine sarc. viral oncog. homolog	Human proto-oncogene	105	.005
Homeodomain interact. prot. kinase 1	Transcriptional regulation	35	.009
Chromosome 19 open read fr 19	Sperm outer dense fibers	7	.001
Adenylosuccinate lyase	Purine synthesis	6	.002
Islet cell autoantigen 1, 69kDa	Autoantigen, type 1 DM	6	.0004
SPATA20c	Member of thioredoxin family	5	.002
POLD2	DNA replication and repair	4	.0003
Stromal cell-derived factor 2 like 1	Stress inducible protein	-3	.001
Voltage-dependent anion channel 3	Mitochondrial membrane channel	-3	.004
Cytokine-inducible protein CP29	Cell proliferation	-5	.010
F-box protein 34	Cell cycle regulation	-10	.005
Zinc finger protein 541	Transcription regulation	-13	.0001
ODC42 1c	Polysamine biosynthesis	-14	.0004
BBX	Transcription regulation	-23	.004
CuA divalent cation tolerance homol	Signal transduction	-27	.0001
Testis nuclear RNA-binding protein	Inhibits MAP kinase activation	-40	.001
BAGALT2	Biosynthesis, cell membrane component	-1122	.008

C. Mallidis et al *Fertility and Sterility* Volume 92, Issue 6, December 2009, Pages 2085-2087

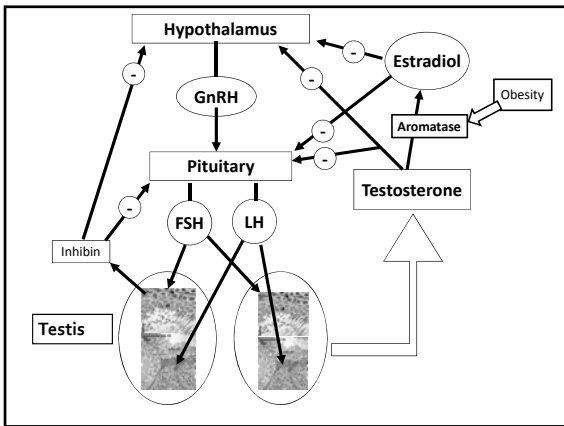
Increased BMI decreased sperm count  
N= 3281



\* Mann-Whitney U-test <20 jfr 20-24  
\*\* One Way Anova <20 ... >36

Arver, Björndahl, Ekström, Kvist, Lehtihet, Tu to be published 2011






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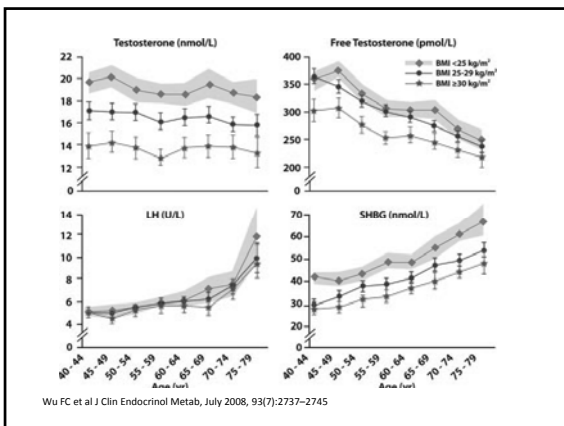
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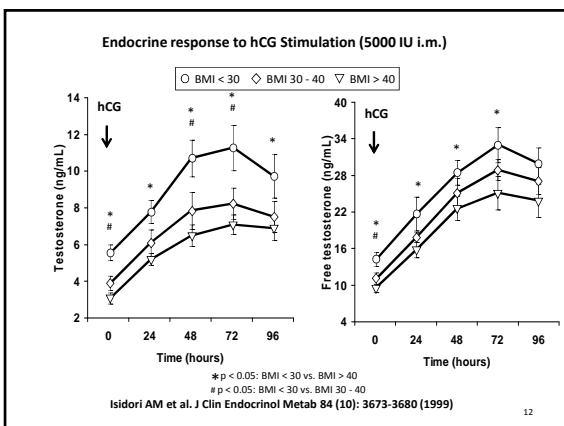
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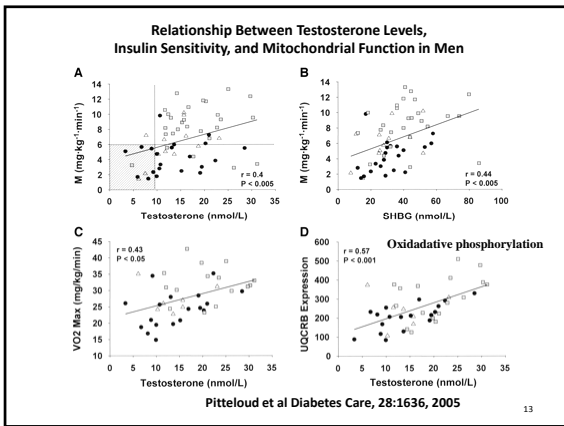
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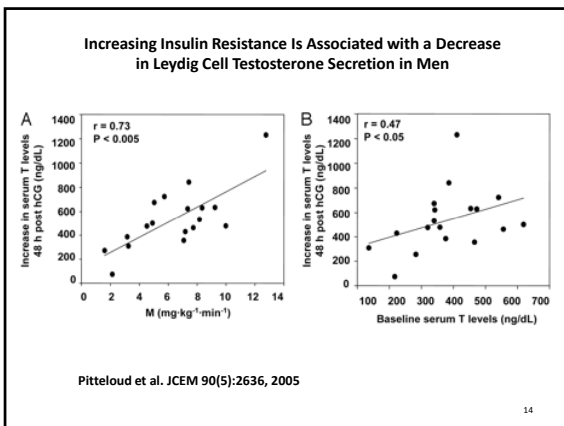
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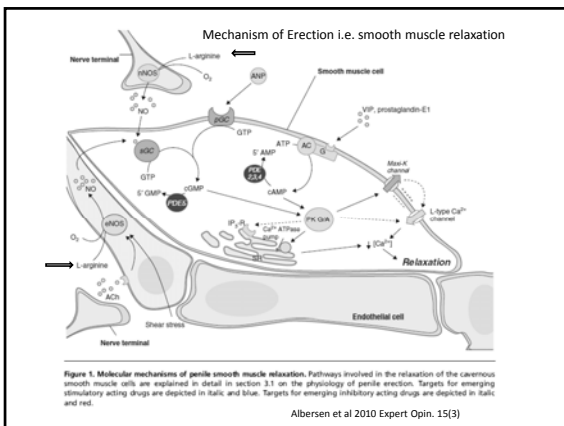
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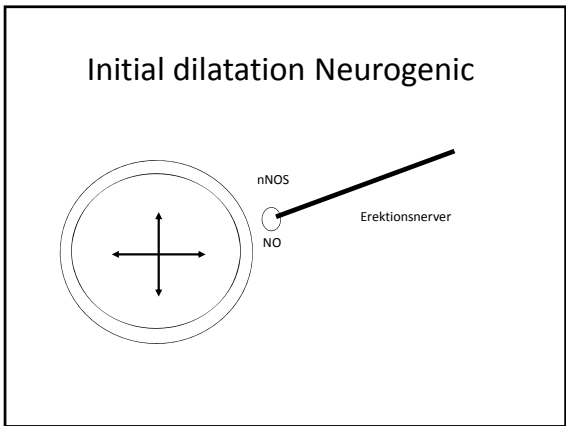
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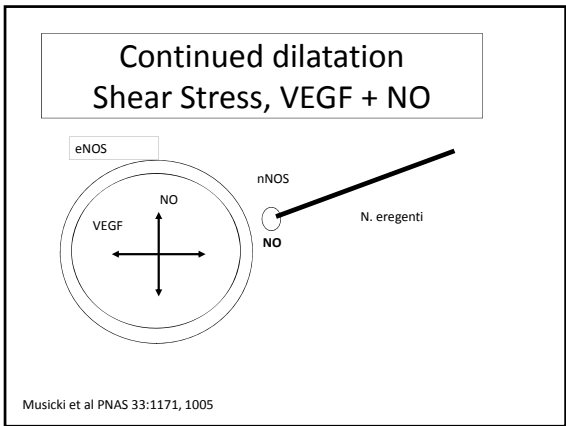
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### Diabetes & vascular & erectile function

Diabetic endothelial dysfunction was originally described in human corpus cavernosum from men with ED

Saenz de Tejada et al N Engl J Med 320, 1025, 1989

Acute & chronic hyperglycemia increases oxidative stress and reactive oxygen species with further progress of endothelial dysfunction.

Triggie et al J Smooth Muscle Res 39, 249, 2003

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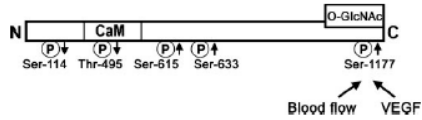
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## Phosphorylation of eNOS Regulates NOS activity



Glucosylation at site Ser-1177 the site for Phosphorylation

Musicki et al PNAS 33:1171, 1005

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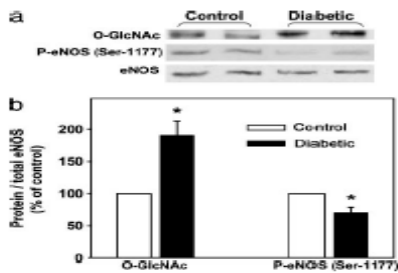
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## Glycosylation inhibits phosphorylation



Musicki et al PNAS 33:1171, 1005

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## Summary

- Obesity and Diabetes type 2 are closely linked
- Supressed Gonadal function is common in obesity independent of age
- Diabetes cause increased oxidative stress and glycosylation of key proteins
- Endothelial dysfunction and neuropathy cause erectile and ejaculatory dysfunction (Dunsimur WD and Holmes SA Diabetes Medicine 1996:13;700-708)

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### Disclosures

- No relationship or other activities to disclose in relation to this presentation
- No potential conflict of interest

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### STI's

Prof. Dr. med. Falk R. Ochsendorf  
Vice-Director Klinik f. Dermatologie, Venerologie u. Allergologie




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### Learning objectives

- After the lecture the participant is able to
  - describe the different prevalences worldwide
  - Explain the difficulties to define the real impact of STI's
  - substantiate why STI's are relevant for infertility
  - list 3 pathogens relevant for male infertility
  - describe how to care for HIV-infected couples

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## STI and male infertility

- Are STI's relevant ?
- Which are relevant ?
- Which sequelae ?  
What to do ?

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## STI prevalence (2001)

	Population aged 25 – 40 y (*10 <sup>6</sup> )	Prevalence (10 <sup>5</sup> )	Prevalence/ 1000	Annual Incidence
Western Europe	203	4	20	17
Sub Saharan Africa	269	32	119	69
South and South East Asia	955	48	50	151

After: Lunenfeld & van Steirteghem 2004

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## Relevance of STI's for infertility

- Primary infertility
  - Developing countries                      < 2 % - 4 % – 8 %
- Secondary infertility
  - Egypt, Bolivia, Peru                              15 – 20%
  - Bangladesh, Haiti                                20 – 25 %
  - Kambodscha, India, Indonesia              > 25 %
  - 14/23 Sub-Saharan states                      > 25 %
  - Zimbabwe    > 62 %

→ Causes:

- STI, poor hygiene post partum

After: Lunenfeld & van Steirteghem 2004

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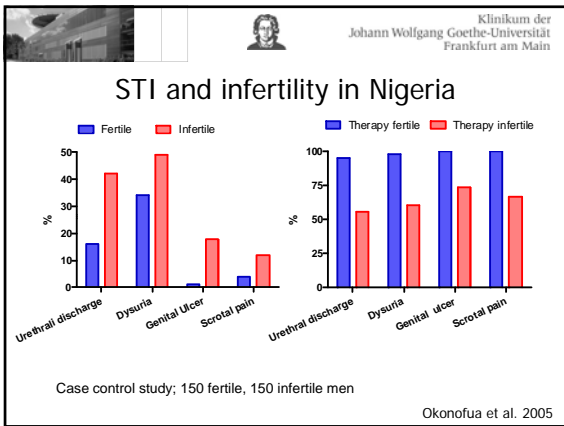
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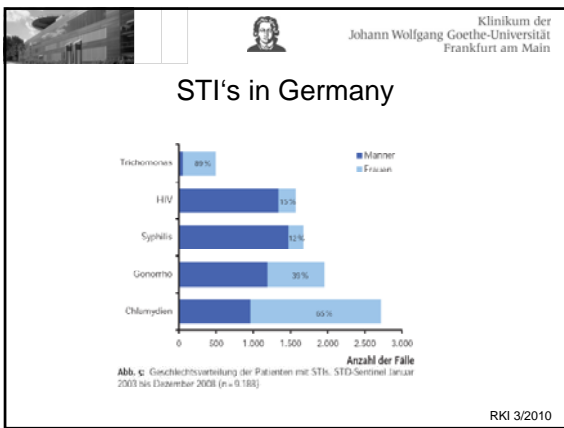
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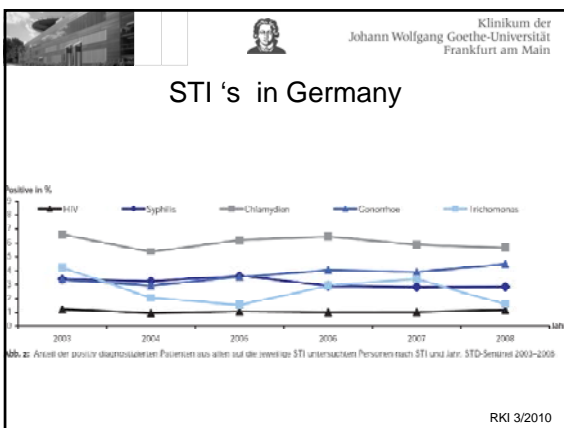
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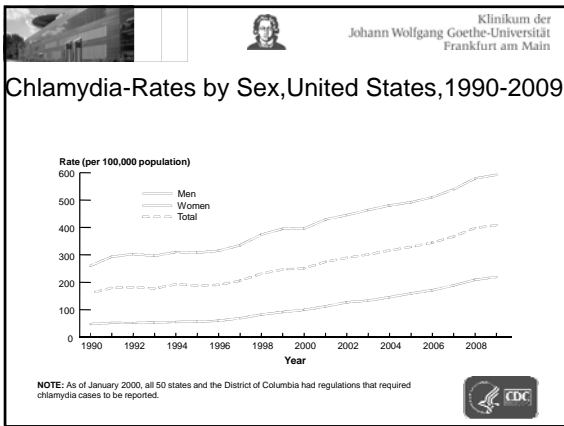
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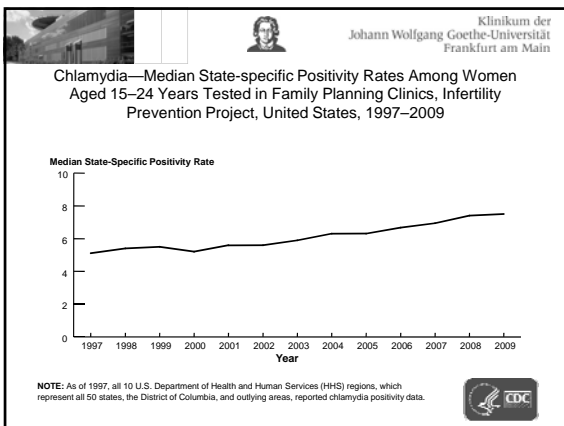
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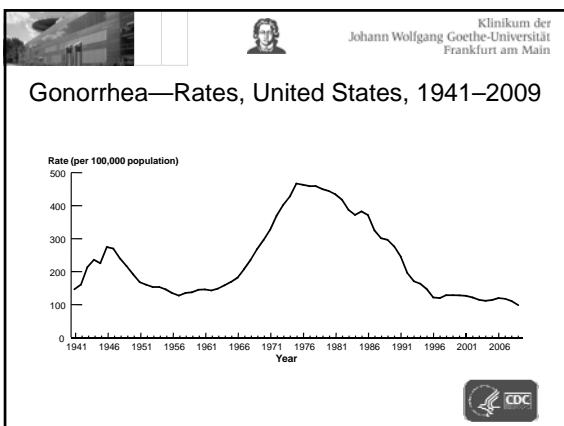
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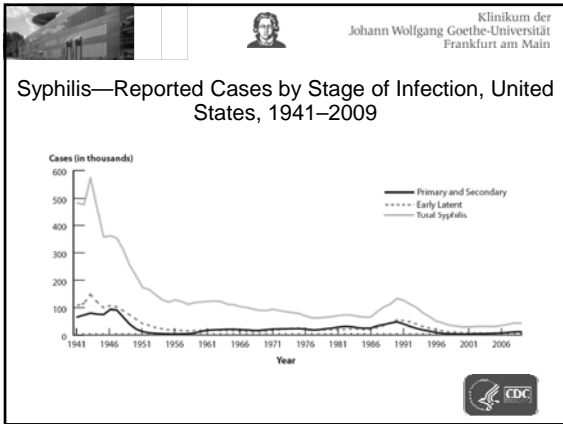
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Mechanismus	Female → male	Male → female
<b>Spreading of disease</b>	Male disease	Female disease Female infertility Infection of oocyte, embryo, stillbirth, fetal abnormality
<b>Changes of</b> - Spermatogonia - Sertoli-cells	Male sterility	
- Leydig cells	Hypogonadism, male infertility	
Infiltration of <b>leukozytes</b> in reproductive tract	Epididymitis, obstruction, immunologic infertility	Immunologic infertility, obstruction
<b>Incorporation</b> of virus genome in genome of spermatogonia		Risk of transmission to next generation

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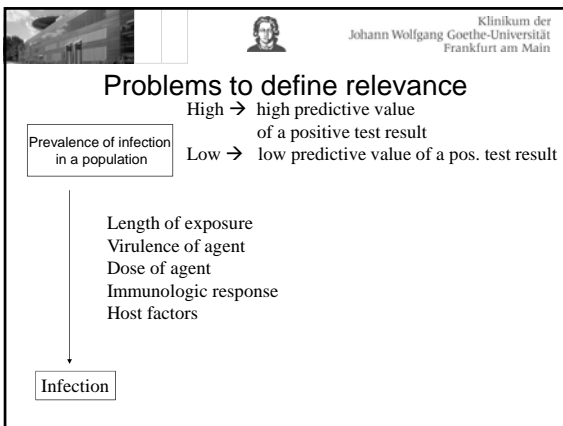
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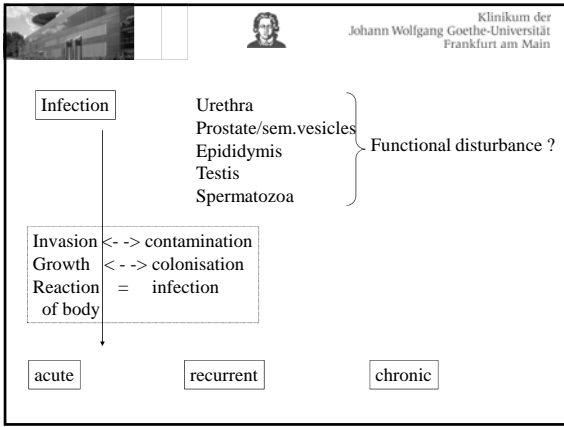
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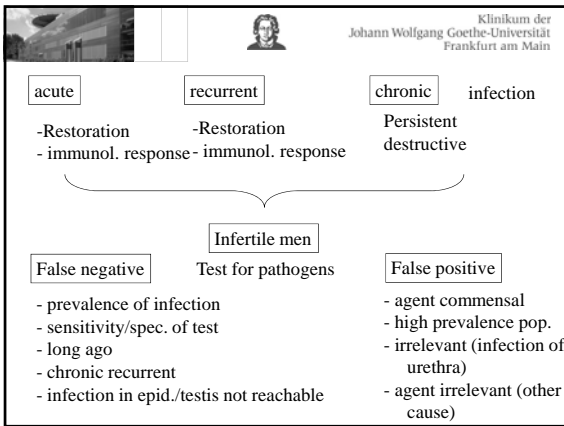
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### STI 's and fertility

- Are STD's relevant ?
- Which are relevant ?
- Which sequelae ?  
What to do ?

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Species	Disease	Etiologic agent
<b>Bacteria</b>	Syphilis	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>
	Gonorrhoea	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
	Ulcus molle	<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>
	Granuloma inguinale	<i>Calymmatobact. granulomatis</i>
	Lymphogranuloma venereum	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis L1-L3</i>
	Not-gonococcal urethritis / adnexitis	<i>C. trachomatis D-K; Mycoplasma spp.; Ureaplasma urealyticum</i>
	bacterial vaginosis	<i>Gardnerella vaginalis u.a.</i>
<b>Viruses</b>	Herpes genitalis	<i>Herpes-simplex-Virus 1/2</i>
	Genital ulcers (in HIV-infection)	<i>Zytomegalievirus</i>
	Verrucae vulgares, Condylomata acuminata, bowenoid papulosis	<i>Humane Papillomviren</i>
	Mollusca contagiosa	<i>Molluscum-contagiosum-Virus</i>
	Hepatitis	<i>Hepatitis-B-Virus, Hep. C Virus</i>
	AIDS	<i>HIV 1/2</i>
<b>Yeasts</b>	Balanitis, Vulvovaginitis, colpitis, urethritis	<i>Candida species</i>
<b>Protozoa</b>	urethritis, vulvovaginitis	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<b>Ectoparasites</b>	pediculosis pubis	<i>Phthirus pubis</i>
	scabies	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>

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Species	Disease	Effect on male/female fertility	
<b>Bacteria</b>	Syphilis	No	Yes
	Gonorrhoea	Yes	Yes
	Ulcus molle	No	
	Granuloma inguinale	No	
	Lymphogranuloma venereum	Unclear	
	Not-gonococcal urethritis / adnexitis	Unclear	Chl. Trach. Yes <i>Mycoplasma spp.,</i>
	bacterial vaginosis	No	Yes
<b>Viruses</b>	Herpes genitalis	Unclear	No
	Genital ulcers (in HIV-infection)	No	
	Verrucae vulgares, Condylomata acuminata, bowenoid papulosis	No	
	Mollusca contagiosa	No	
	Hepatitis	No	
	AIDS	Yes	Yes
<b>Yeasts</b>	Balanitis, Vulvovaginitis, colpitis, urethritis	No	
<b>Protozoa</b>	urethritis, vulvovaginitis	Unclear, probably negligible	
<b>Ectoparasites</b>	pediculosis pubis	No	
	scabies	No	

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	Hepatitis	No	
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	scabies	No	

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	Syphilis	Gonok.	Chlamyd trachoma	HIV	HSV	Bakt. Vag.
Male infertility	-	+	+	+	-	--
Female infertility	-	+++	+++	+	-	-
Spontaneous abortion	-	-	-	-	+	-
Birth defects	+	-	-	-	+++	-
Fetal infection	+++	-	-	+++	+++	+
Preterm delivery	+++	++	++	-	+++	++
Growth restriction	+++	+	-	-	+++	-
Perinatal mortality	+++	-	-	+	++	-
Intrapartum infection	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	-
Infection via breastfeeding	-	-	-	+++	-	-

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### Semen microbiology in fertile/infertile population

	Fertile population (n=144)	subfertile population (n=143)	Difference significant
Non-bacterial			
<i>Ureaplasma urealyticum</i>	7,6	12,5	N.S.
<i>Mycoplasma hominis</i>	1,4	2,9	N.S.
<i>Both</i>	3,4	5,1	N.S.
<i>C. Trachomatis</i>	4,2	7,7	N.S.
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,6</b>	<b>27,2</b>	<b>P&lt;0,05</b>
Bacterial			
Total	20,1	13,2	N.S.
Negative	68,7	72	N.S.

Human Reprod 12, 987ff, 1997

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- ### Problems: *C. trachomatis* and male infertility
- Detection method
  - Material investigated
  - Detection: acute or prior infections
  - Relevance of immunologic responses
  - Relevance of co-infections
  - Group sizes

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### STD and fertility

- Are STD's relevant ?
- Which are relevant ?
- Which sequelae ?  
What to do ?

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### Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
- Adnexitis (C. trachomatis)
- Herpes genitalis
- Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV-Infektion

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### Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
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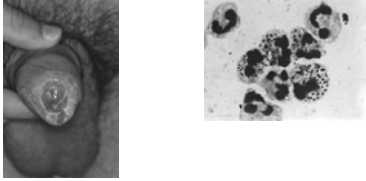
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## Gonorrhoe



- Urethritis no effect Ness et al. 1997
- [strictures +] Fievet et al. 1987  
Dohle 2003

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## Gonorrhoea

- 2 yrs after unilateral epididymo-orchitis:  
→ only 21 % sufficient semen quality  
→ biopsy: bilateral testicular damage
- Tubal occlusion in women  
→ RR 2,4 – 2,7  
with history/serologic signs of prior gonorrhoea
- Increased preterm birth (OR 2,9)

N.N. 1995  
Grodstein et al. 1993

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## Gonococcal and chlamydia-infections

Coinfection with *C. trachomatis* often occurs among patients who have gonococcal infection; therefore, presumptive treatment of such patients for chlamydia is appropriate (see Gonococcal Infection, Dual Therapy for Gonococcal and Chlamydial Infections). The following recommended treatment:

CDC 2010

Co-infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* is common in patients with gonorrhoea. Treatment for gonorrhoea should routinely be followed with effective treatment for chlamydial infection or sensitive testing to exclude coinfection.

IUSTI 2001

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**Gonococcal urethritis**

- Cefixim 400 mg p.o. 97,4 % *oder*
- Ceftriaxon 250 mg i.m. 99,1 % *oder*

**PLUS**

- Azithromycin 1 g p.o. *oder*
- Doxycyclin 100 mg 2x/d 7 d

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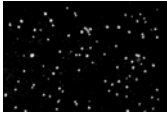
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**Chlamydia trachomatis and male infertility**

- Deleterious effects: plausible
- Evidence: **weak**

Krause u. Bohring 2003, Cunningsham & Beagley 2008, Veznik et al. 2004

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**Men: evidence for deleterious effects**

- 6/241 (2%) pos. DNA  
→ decreased sperm count
- 244 infertile couples, 20 % pos.  
Chl. antibodies; OR 2,6 for infertility
- Association with inflammation
- Transport to the female tract

Idahl et al. 2007

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### Chlamydia and disease

- 17,764 men enrolled, retrospective 2001-05
  - 913 (5.14%): reproductive tract outcome
  - CT-positive men,
 

	cumulative incidence	Hazard ratio
– orchitis/epididymitis	4,28 %	1,38 (1,13-1,7)
– Prostatitis	1,41 %	
– Infertility	1,27 %	
– urethral stricture	0.13 %	
any outcome		1.37 (1.16-1.61)
infertility		1.36 (0.93-2.00)

Trei et al. 2008

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### Chlamydia and obstruction

- Obstructive azoospermia
  - 14 cases, 22 controls
- No *C. trachomatis* DNA
  - in testis or
  - epididymis

Sripeda et al. 2010

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### Chlamydia-serology and prognosis

226 Paare	Male factor	DNA-demonstration	Tubal-factor	Chance of pregnancy	
IgG Man	-		-	+ ↓	2/3
IgA Man	-	+	-	+ ↓	1/3
IgG Woman			+		
IgA Woman		-		-	
CHSP 60 man			+	-	

Idahl et al. 2007

„...the chlamydial serology results ... were not indicative of reduced sperm function or subsequent fertilizing capacity.“ Eggert-Kruse et al. 2011

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### Chlamydia and female infertility

- Infertility, ectopic pregnancies and chronic pelvic pain, are important consequences of PID, and since sexually transmitted microorganisms are the cause of acute PID in the majority of cases, then PID represents the link between sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and infertility.

N.N. 2002

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### Therapy chlamydia

- Azithromycin 1 g p.o., single dose
- Doxycyclin 100 mg 2x/d for 7 d
- „Azithromycin and doxycycline are equally efficacious in achieving microbial cure and have similar tolerability. Further head-to-head trials comparing these antibiotics are unnecessary. Lau & Qureshi 2002

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### Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
- Adnexitis (Chlamydia)
- Herpes genitalis
- Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV-Infektion

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**Acute epididymitis**




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**Patient M.R.**

- 29-yrs.
- Request for fertility status

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**Patient M.R.: Spermatogram**

Volume	2,5
Spermconcentration (*10 <sup>6</sup> /ml)	21,8
Total count	
Motility a + b	4
Motility c	1
Motility d	95
Morphology (nl)	14
Leukozytes	9,8

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### History and physical examination

- 12 months ago: epididymitis
- Delayed diagnosis: chlamydia infection
- Epididymis both sides: thickened

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### Patient M.R.: diagnosis and treatment

- Diagnosis:  
status after bilateral epididymitis
- Therapy
  - Diclofenac, Doxycylin, Vitamin E and C,  
Prednisone: no effect
  - Recommendation: ICSI
- Follow-up:  
after 18 months unchanged

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### Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
- Adnexitis
- Herpes genitalis
- Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV-Infection

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### Ureaplasma/Mycoplasma

- Problem: Effect ?
- In-vitro: time- and dose-dependent
  - Chromatin-Decondensation
  - DNA damage
  - abortion ?

Reichart et al. 2000

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### Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureplasmen)
- Adnexitis durch C. trachomatis
- Herpes genitalis
- Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV-Infektion

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### Herpes simplex in men

- Demonstrated in spermatozoa
- Incidence 0 - 3 – 24 - 56 %
 

PCR	in-situ Hybridisierung
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- Association to low sperm numbers and motility ?
- Pregnancies after aciclovir ?

Kotronias et al. 1998  
 Kapranos et al. 2003  
 Krause et al. 2002

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## Viruses in ejaculate

Pathogen prevalence in	Leukozytospemie		Total
	LCS	Non-LCS	
Any pathogen			
Prevalence	25/132 (18.9)	20/109 (18.3)	45/241 (18.7)
HPV			
Prevalence	3/70 (4.3)	5/109 (4.6)	8/179 (4.5)
C. trachomatis			
Prevalence	3/132 (2.3)	3/108 (2.8)	6/240 (2.5)
Range	10,000-460,000	8,300-590,000	8,300-590,000
CMV			
Prevalence	14/132 (10.6)	7/109 (6.4)	21/241 (8.7)
Range	110-580,000	3,200-12,000,000	110-12,000,000
HSV-1 and HSV-2			
Prevalence	4/132 (3.0)	5/109 (4.6)	9/241 (3.7)
Range	510-15,000	300-22,000	300-22,000
HHV-8			
Prevalence	5/132 (3.8)	4/109 (3.7)	9/241 (3.7)
Range	250-81,000,000	4,400-1,500,000	250-81,000,000
EBV			
Prevalence	1/132 (0.8)	0/108 (0)	1/240 (0.4)
Range	210	210	210
HBV			
Prevalence	0/132 (0)	0/109 (0)	0/241 (0)

Bezold et al. 2007

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## HPV in ejaculate

- 100 men with unprotected intercourse
  - 10/100 infected
  - 25 % of sperm heads infected
- 100 men without intercourse
  - No infection
- Motility
 

infected	37,7 +/- 16,8
non-infected	53,7 +/- 18,2
controls	53,7 +/- 19

Foresta et al. 2010

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## Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
- Adnexitis durch C. trachomatis
- Herpes genitalis
- Trichomonas vaginalis
- HIV-Infektion

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
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## Trichomonas vaginalis

- In 25 % : only ejaculate positive  
J Infect Dis 189, 1926ff, 2004
- Infertile men: higher incidence ??
- Quality of ejaculate improved 1 month after therapy ??
- No negative effect on motility, sperm-mucus interaction
- Apparently no impact on female fertility

Soper 2004

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## Relevant Diseases

- Urethritis (Gonorrhoe, Ureaplasmen)
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## Relevance of STD: increase risk of HIV



**STD Detection**  
HIV Prevention

Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can be an effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. An understanding of the relationship between STDs and HIV infection can help in the development of effective HIV prevention programs for persons with high-risk sexual behaviors.

**What is the link between STDs and HIV infection?**

### The Role of STD Detection and Treatment in HIV Prevention

**How can STD treatment slow the spread of HIV infection?**

Evidence from intervention studies indicates that detecting and treating STDs can substantially reduce HIV transmission at the individual and community levels.

- STD treatment reduces an individual's ability to transmit HIV. Studies have shown that treating STDs in HIV-infected individuals decreases both the amount of HIV they shed and how often they shed the virus (Fleming, Wasserheit, 1999).
- STD treatment reduces the spread of HIV

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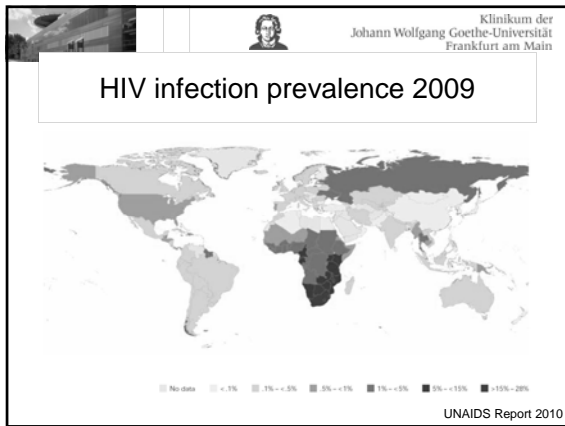
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- ### HIV in the male genital tract
- HIV-1 proviral DNA in spermatogonia
  - Virus in ejaculate
  - Intermittent „Shedding“
    - free in seminal plasma from prostate gland ?
    - Spermatozoen ?
    - No infection of motile sperm
  - → Lymphocytes
    - Macrophages
    - Monocytes
    - Rete testis, Epididymis

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### HIV infection in a semen donor

Semen variable	Before HIV infection (n=63)	After HIV infection (n=13)
Vopume (ml)	3,5	2,5
Concentration	74	110
% motility	49	41
% morphology	55	46
Total count	263	264
Total motile count	131	105

Van Leeuwen et al. 2004

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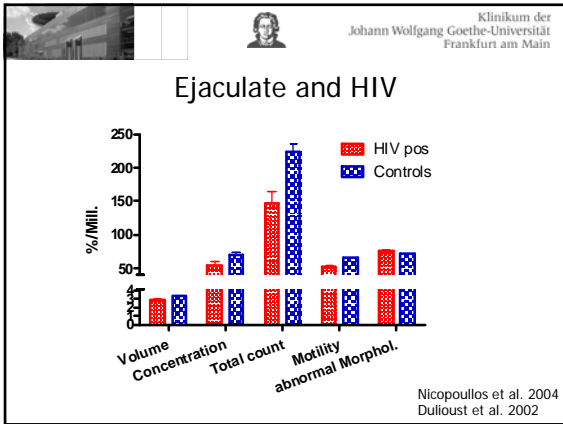
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### HAART and semen quality

- Only few studies
  - Zidovudine monotherapy: no effect
  - HAART: tendency to improvement  
(short follow up) HAART: increase of mitochondrial DNA

In vitro: didanosine, zidovudine, saquinavir and indinavir; saquinavir: dose dependent decrease motility, decrease mitochondrial potential, increase acrosome reaction Ahmad et al. 2011

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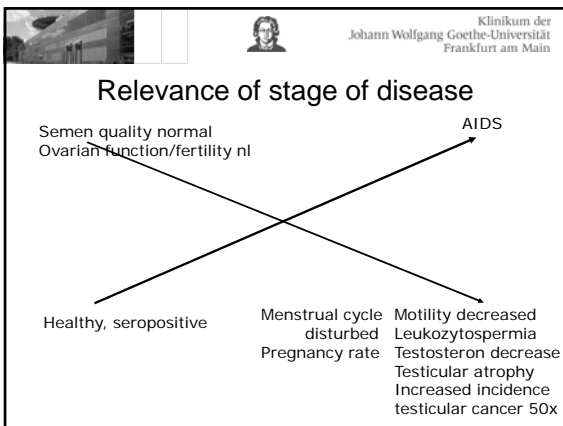
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### HIV infection and reproduction

- 80 % HIV-pos. Couples had unprotected intercourse to achieve pregnancy
- Unprotected intercourse: 0,1- 0,2 % risk of HIV-infection per event man/woman
  - 100 000 copies: 1 zu 100
  - 100 copies: 3 zu 10 000

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### Natural conception ?

- > 6 months no HIV-RNA im blood
- 62 serodiscordant couples
  - 22 HIV-pos. women
  - 40 HIV-pos. men
- 76 pregnancies, 68 births
- No seroconversion partner
- 1 HIV-pos. child
- 55 / 75 % HCV-pos: no infection

Barreira et al. 2007

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### Natural conception ?

- Undetectable HIV in blood
- In semen: in 48 % (12/25) in more than one control:
  - viral shedding
  - 4/25 isolate > 5000 copies/ml
- 5 - 6 % in other studies

Sheth et al. 2009

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## Treatment

- Counseling
- Antiretroviral therapy (< 1000 copies/ml)  
→ significant improvement unrelated to CD4-count, ejaculate parameters, stimulation protocol
- Preparation of ejaculate: gradient centrifugation  
2x washs  
Swim-up
- PCR: use if HIV-RNA negative (~95 %)
- Use for IUI/ICSI

Zutlevics 2006

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## ART in HIV-pos. men

- 18 studies
- 1239 couples: preparation of sperm
- 2794 IUI-cycles
  - 89 IVF-cycles
  - 188 ICSI cycles
- 539 pregnancies
- 474 births
- No seroconversion

Van Leeuwen et al. 2007

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## ART in HIV-pos. men

- 245 couples, 439 cycles IUI
- 111/245 (45,4 %) pregnancy
- No seroconversion
- Prognostic relevant: maternal age and semen quality, rather than HIV factors
- Frozen sperm: significant negative impact on outcome

Nicolopoulos et al. 2010

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## Diagnostics of infections and ART

Woman	Man
Phasecontrast preparation, vaginal pH	Spermatogram (if leukozytospemia mikrobiol. diagnostics)
Chlamydia Genamplification (cervical smear)	
Rubella HAH, eventually IgG	
Varizella-antibodies	
HBsAg, event. Anti-HBc Screening	HBsAg, Anti-HBc Screening
Anti-HCV	Anti-HCV
Anti-HIV	Anti-HIV

AWMF Leitlinie 15/046, 2004

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Frankfurt am Main

## STI's and Male Infertility

- **Relevant:**
  - Chlamydia, gonococci, HIV
  - Especially developing countries
- **Unclear**
  - Mycoplasma, Ureaplasmen Trichomonas, Viruses
- **Consequences**
  - Timely adequate therapy
  - HIV: counseling, assisted reproduction

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## Genetically determined susceptibility to iatrogenic therapies

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman, Ass Prof.

Faculty of Medicine  
Dept. of Clinical Science

ESHRE  
Stockholm 2011

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### Disclosure

The lecturer has no commercial and/or financial relationships with manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, laboratory supplies and /or medical devices.

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### Learning objectives

- Azoospermia is common after cancer treatment (10-20%)
- Inhibin B is a good marker for recovery of spermatogenesis
- Genetic variants can also be used as predictive tools for azoospermia.

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## Iatrogenic therapies

- "First, do no harm"
- Conditions do not only result from medical errors e.g. mistakes made in surgery, the prescription or dispensing of the wrong therapy, but sometimes adverse effects of a medical treatment or combinations of treatments may be iatrogenic.
- For example, radiation therapy and chemotherapy frequently produce iatrogenic effects such as hair loss, anemia, vomiting, infertility, etc.

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## High survival rate and risk of infertility

Childhood cancer

Facing heavy treatment.  
Cryopreservation of testis tissue or not?

Testicular cancer

Received heavy treatment  
Wants to have children when, or if,  
sperm production is restored.

Can genetic markers predict?

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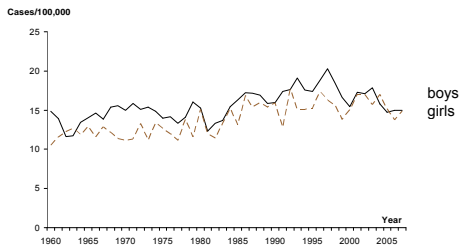
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## Childhood cancer incidence in Sweden



Swedish Childhood Cancer Registry

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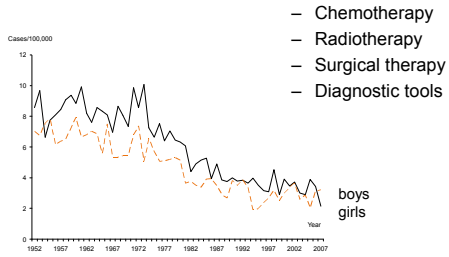
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## Mortality



Swedish Childhood Cancer Registry

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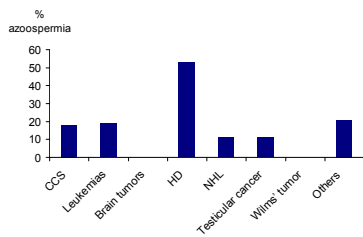
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## Diagnoses



Romerius P et al. Int J Androl 2011

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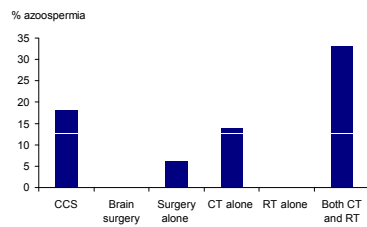
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## Therapy



If radiotherapy to the testes → 100% azoospermia

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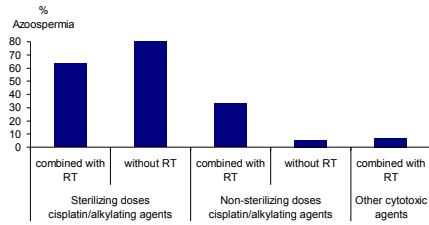
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## High risk treatment



Romerius P et al. Int J Androl 2011

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## Clinical markers

	OR	p	PPV (%)	NPV (%)
Subnormal Inhibin B	91	<0.001	66	98
Elevated FSH	89	<0.001	50	99
Subnormal total Testicular volume (≤24 mL)	17	<0.001	61	92

PPV = positive predictive value: still 35-50% have preserved sperm production  
 NPV = negative predictive value: risk of azoospermia only 1-2% if normal conc.

Romerius P et al. Int J Androl 2011

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## Can genetic variants be used in prediction?



Lundberg Giwercman Y et al. Hum Genet 1998.



Giwercman A et al. JCEM 2000.



AR mutations are rare  
1:10 000

Profound effects on phenotype

Polymorphisms are frequent  
>1% of the population

Small effects on phenotype

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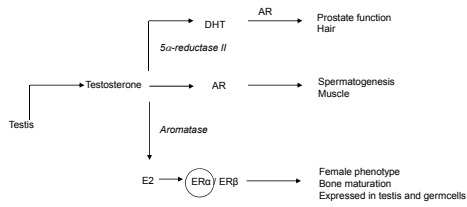
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## Candidate genes



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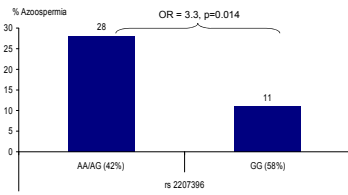
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## Estrogen receptor α



Romerius P et al. Pharm Genet & Genom, in press.

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011




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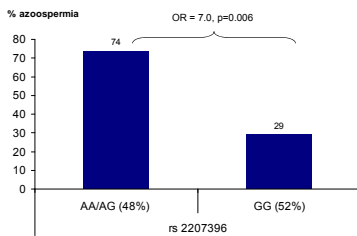
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## High-risk treatment



70% of those with azoospermia can be identified by using this SNP

Romerius P et al. Pharm Genet & Genom, in press.

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### Summary childhood cancer

- ¼ survive
- 20% will have azoospermia
- FSH and inhibin B are good markers
- More than 70% are carriers of certain oestrogen receptor  $\alpha$  variant, could be subjects for cryopreservation if prepubertal

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### Testicular Germ Cell Cancer

- incidence 6 / 100 000 men
- the most common cancer in men aged 20 – 40 years
- >95% cured
- associated with impaired sperm production and decreased fertility potential before diagnosis

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011



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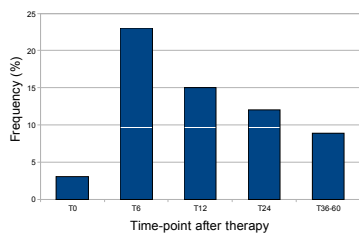
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### Azoospermia at different time-points



n=318

Eberhard J et al. Hum Repr 2004

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011



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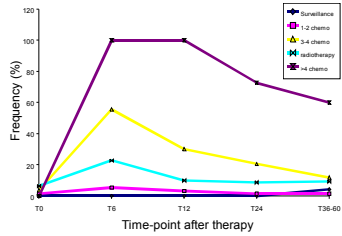
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### Azoospermia due to oncological treatment



Eberhard et al. Hum Repr 2004

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011




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### Inhibin B as predictor of azoospermia

Time of Inhibin B analysis	Inhibin B cut off level (ng/mL)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	AUC
T6	64.5	100	60	0.84
T12	60.5	92	74	0.84
T24	68.4	81	71	0.82

Normal range: <50 ng/mL

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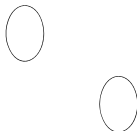
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- Important for a patient to know whether he will be permanently infertile or sperm production will recover
- Can genetic markers predict?



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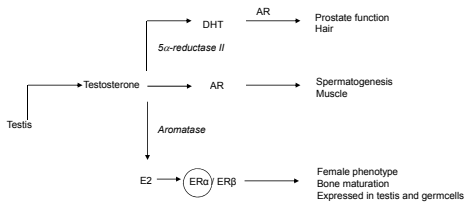
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## Genetic markers



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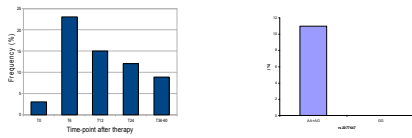
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## Estrogen receptor α again



GG carriers are safe, also if treated with high dose chemotherapy

n=202

Unpublished data.

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## General population

Young men from general population  
prior to military service, n=305

rs2077647	LH (IU/L)	p-value	FSH (IU/L)	p-value
AA→AG / GG	4.3 / 3.6	0.04	3.6 / 2.9	0.04

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## Summary testicular cancer

- More than 95% survive
- 10% will have azoospermia
- Inhibin B is a good marker
- Estrogen receptor alfa variant predictive in all of cases.

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## Take home message

- Azoospermia is common after childhood cancer (20%) and testicular cancer treatment (10%)
- Inhibin B is a good marker for recovery of spermatogenesis
- Genetic variants can also be used as predictive tools for azoospermia.

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Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011



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- Jakob Eberhard
- Olof Ståhl



Cancerfonden



Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman / ESHRE / Stockholm 2011

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**Cancer: impact of disease and therapy on male fertility**

**Bernard Robaire, Ph.D. and Barbara F. Hales, Ph.D.**

Departments of Pharmacology and Therapeutics  
And of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**SIG Andrology – Pre-congress course: 3 July 2011**

***Lifestyle and male reproduction***

27th Annual Meeting - ESHRE 2011 - Stockholm, Sweden, 3-6 July 2011



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**Conflict of Interest**

I have no commercial relationships or other activities that might be perceived as a potential conflict of interest.

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**Learning Objectives**

- There is an increasing rate of cancer among young men in developed countries.
- Improving survival of young men with testis cancer and lymphomas is associated with high rates of infertility.
- Men with some cancers have damaged germ cells even prior to initiation of drug treatments.
- Chemotherapeutic agents have a wide range of effects on male germ cells.
- Chemotherapeutic agents can have effects on sperm while residing in the epididymis.
- Sperm returning after chemotherapy show damage to chromatin at least up to two years after drug treatment.
- Therefore sperm banking should be advised prior to treatment.

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**Paternal Occupations Affecting Incidence of Malformations in Progeny**

Profession	Effect on offspring	Odds ratio
Janitor	hydrocephalus	5.04
	ventricular septal defects	2.45
	other heart defects	2.35
Forestry and Logging Worker	congenital cataract	2.28
	atrial septal defects	2.03
	syndactyly	2.03
Painter	spina bifida	3.21
	patent ductus arteriosus	2.34
	cleft palate	3.36
Printer	atresia of the urethra	4.50
	clubfoot	2.18
Plywood mill Worker	ductus arteriosus	2.52
	patent pyloric stenosis	4.12
	dislocated hip	2.71

Olehan, Teschke, Baird. Paternal occupation and congenital anomalies in offspring. Am J Ind Med 1991; 20:447-75.

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**Associations between paternal exposures and adverse reproductive outcomes**

Agent	Embryo/fetal loss*	Birth defects*	Childhood cancer*
Radiation	0.9-1.5	1.4-5.6	N/T <sup>‡</sup>
Solvents	0.9-2.3	N/T	1.7-7
Anesthetic gases	1.5-1.8	N/T	N/T
Heavy metals	0.9-2.3	1.5-249	3.5-7
Smoking	0.6-1.4	1.3	1.2-3.9
Herbicides/pesticides	N/T	5.7-405	2.4-7.1
Cancer drugs	N/T	4.1	N/T

\*Values represent the range of OR/RR (Odds Ratios/Relative Risk) found by different studies  
<sup>‡</sup> N/T = not tested  
*Sawyer and Aitken, 2001*

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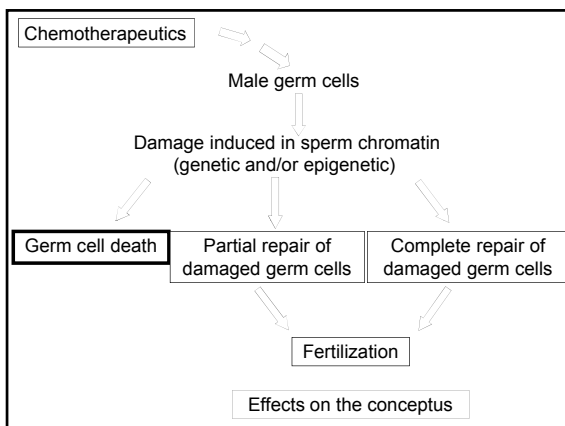
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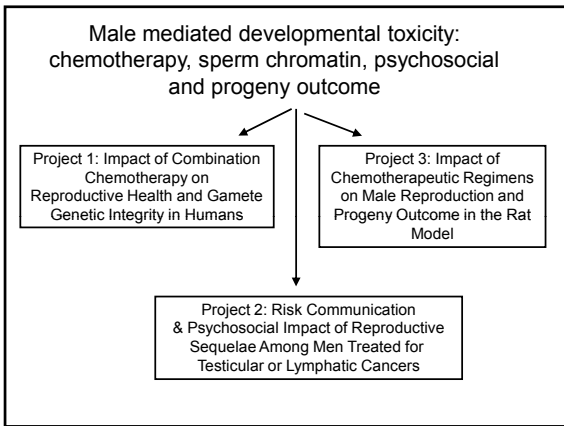
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### The Team

<p><b>Project 1: Clinical Andrology</b></p> <p>Peter Chan McGill University</p> <p>University of Calgary Renee Martin Helen Tempest</p> <p>McGill University Bernard Robaire Raghu Rajan Cristian O'Flaherty Farida Vaisheva</p> <p>University of Montreal Valerie Desilets</p>	<p><b>Project 2: Psychosocial Study</b></p> <p>Zeev Rosberger McGill University</p> <p>University of Montreal Marie Achille</p> <p>Tom Baker Cancer Center, University of Calgary Barry Bultz</p>	<p><b>Project 3: Animal Models</b></p> <p>Bernard Robaire McGill University</p> <p>McGill University Barbara Hales Louis Hermo Jacquetta Trasler Makoto Nagano Geraldine Delbes Donovan Chan Farida Vaisheva Ludovic Marcon Adrienne Bieber</p>
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Grant # HGG-62294

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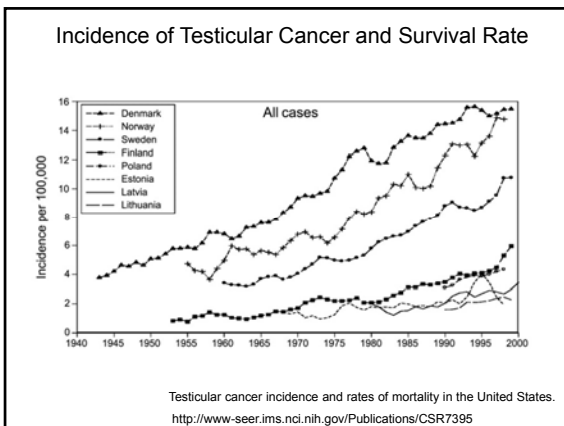
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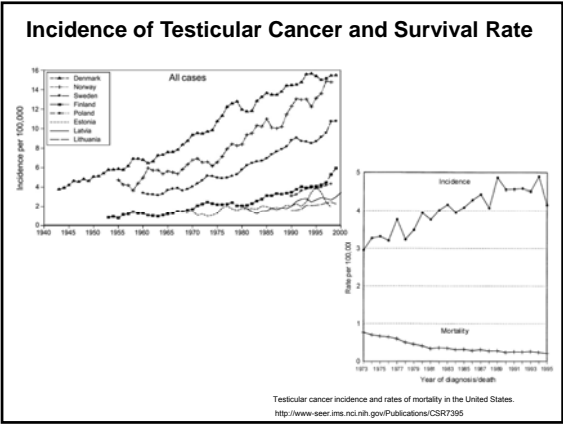
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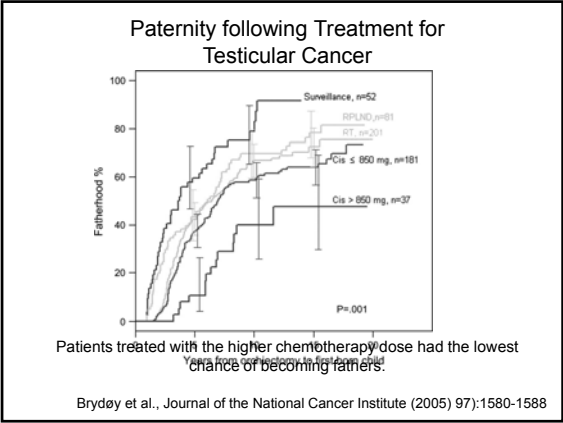
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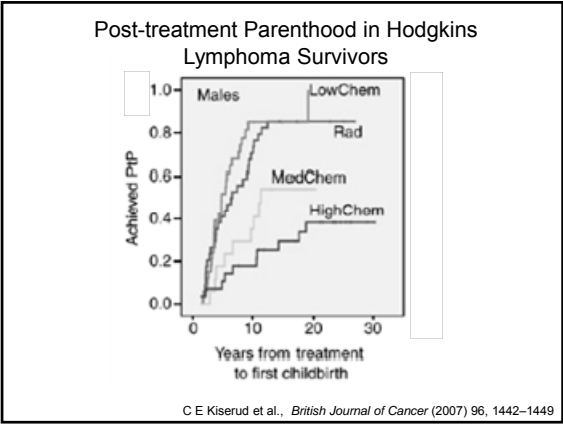
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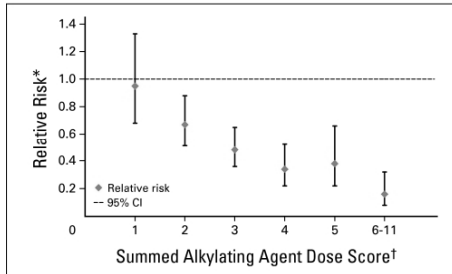
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### Fertility of Male Survivors of Childhood Cancers



An alkylating agent dose score  $\geq 2$  decreased the likelihood of siring a pregnancy

Green DM et al., J Clin Oncol. 2010; 28(2): 332-339.

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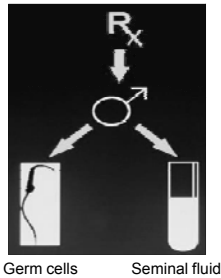
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### Evidence for Male-mediated Developmental Toxicity

- Xenobiotics in the ejaculate can produce developmental toxicity
- Exposure of males to clastogens increases frequency of abnormal germ cells
- Sperm carrying chromatin abnormalities can fertilize an oocyte




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### Impact of Cancer Chemotherapy

- Actions of a single alkylating agent (cyclophosphamide) on sperm chromatin structure and consequences for progeny outcome
- Actions of combinations of agents used for treating testis cancer (BEP) (bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin)
- Actions of combination of agents used for treating Hodgkin lymphoma (CHOP) (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone) impact of the chemotherapeutic regimens for testis cancer and Hodgkin lymphoma on sperm parameters and progeny outcome.

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**Cyclophosphamide**

<b>Anticancer Agent</b>	<b>Immunosuppressive Agent</b>
<p><b>(Non)-Hodgkin Lymphoma</b>  <b>Lymphocytic Leukemia</b>  <b>Breast Cancer</b>  <b>Ovarian Cancer</b>  <b>Lung Cancer</b></p>	<p><b>Lupus Erythematosus</b>  <b>Wegener's Granulomatosis</b>  <b>Graft-versus-Host Disease</b></p>

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- **Spermatogenesis**
- **Assessing semen: quantity/quality issue**
- **Animal models to study effects of chemotherapeutic drugs**

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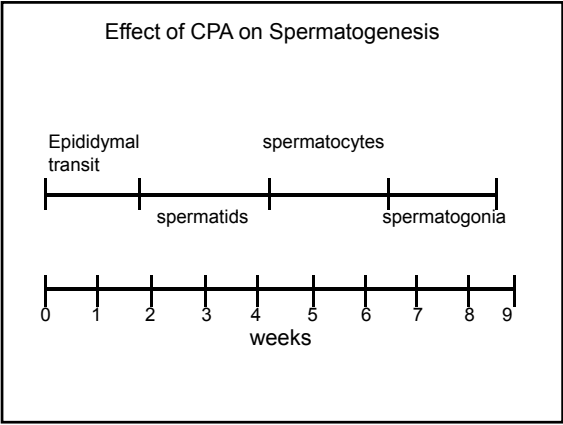
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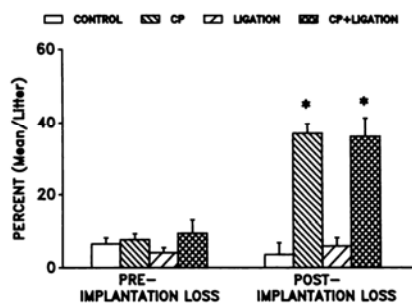
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Effect of Cyclophosphamide and Efferent Duct Ligation (7 days) on Pre- and Post-implantation loss



Qiu et al., Biol Reprod. 1992; 46:926-931

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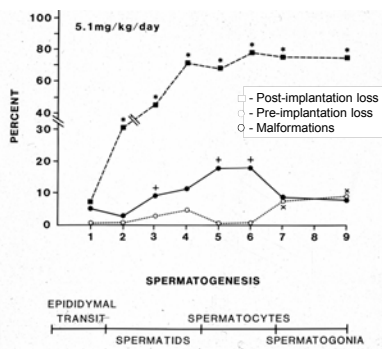
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Chronic Paternal CPA affects Progeny




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Effects of Paternal CPA on Skeletal Abnormalities in Offspring




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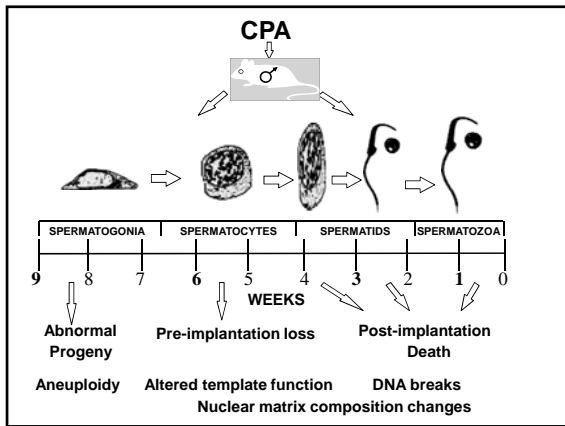
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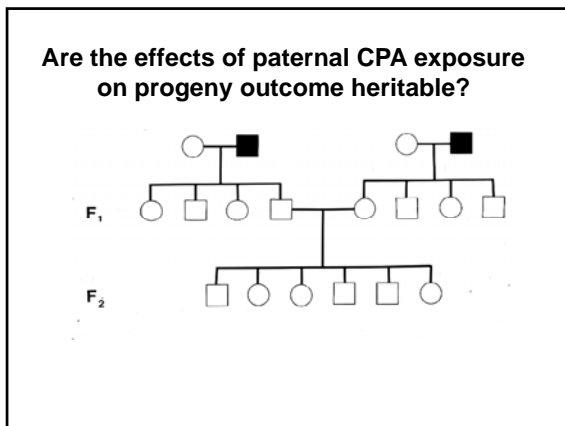
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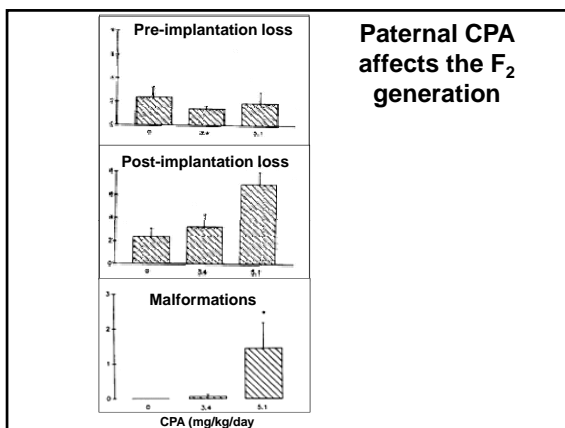
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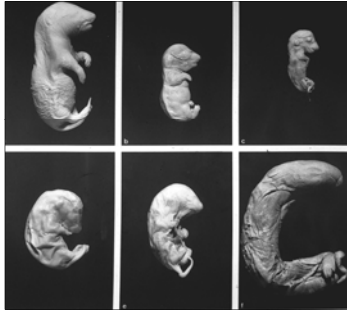
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### F<sub>2</sub> Fetuses after Paternal CPA Exposure




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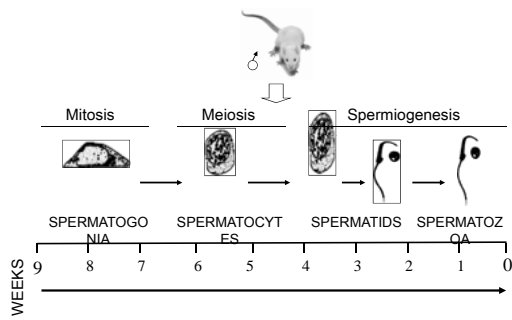
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### Chronic BEP Treatment of Male Rats




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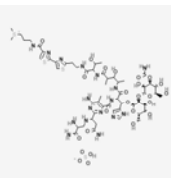
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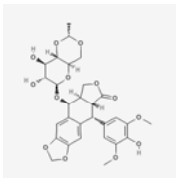
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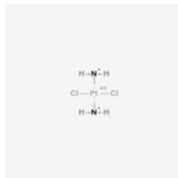
### Drugs Used in the Management of Testis Cancer



**Bleomycin**  
causes DNA strand breaks



**Etoposide**  
: inhibits topoisomerase II



**Cisplatin**  
alkylates DNA, causing cross-links

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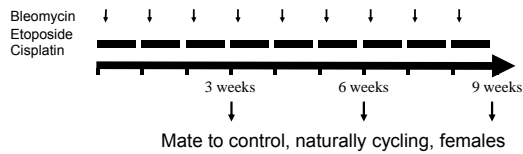
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### Chronic BEP Treatment Regimen

Doses: 0X, 1/3X, 2/3X and 1X; n=10/group  
 Human equivalent doses were determined for rats by converting for differences in surface area.  
 - Bleomycin: 1.5mg/kg/week (i.p.)  
 - Etoposide: 15mg/kg/day (gavage)  
 - Cisplatin: 3mg/kg/day (gavage)




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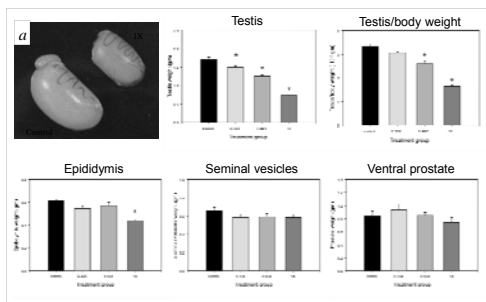
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### Effects of BEP on Male Reproductive Organ Weights



Bieber et al., J Androl 27: 189-200, 2006

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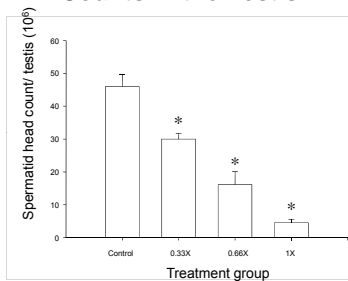
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### Effects of BEP on Spermatid-Head Counts in the Testis



Bieber et al., J Androl 27: 189-200, 2006

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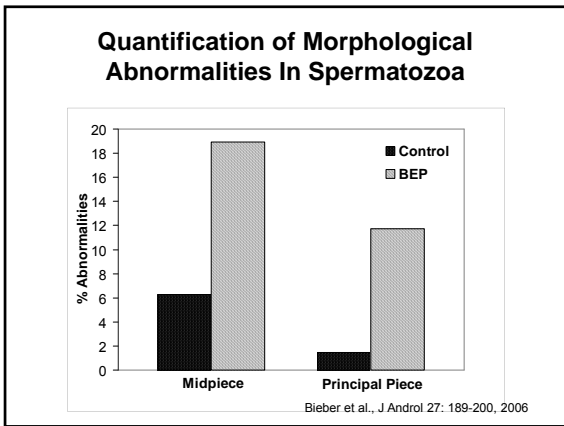
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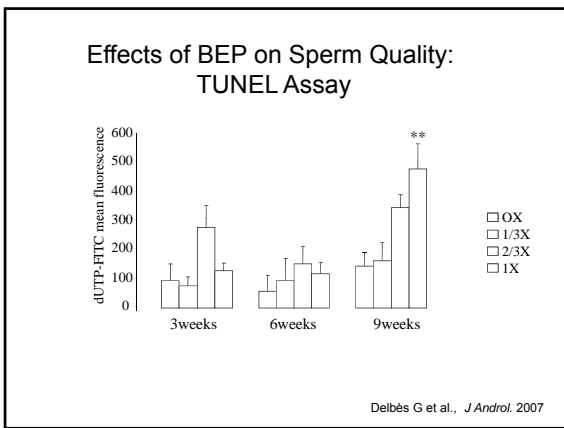
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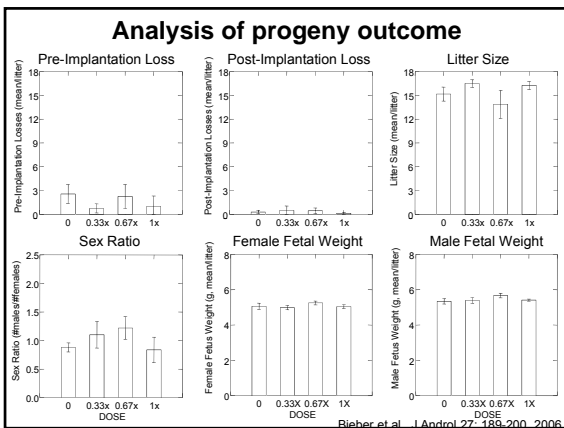
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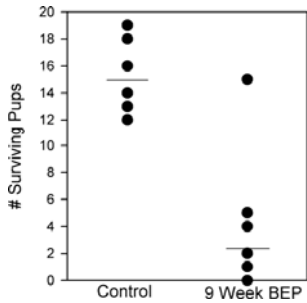
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**Numbers of pups per litter that survived past postnatal day 1**



Bieber et al., J Androl 27: 189-200, 2006

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**Chronic treatment with BEP results in:**

- Decreased weights of the body, testes, and epididymides
- Abnormal testis histology
- Decreased spermatid head counts
- Significant effects on sperm motility, morphology, and quality
- No effects on pre- or post-implantation loss, litter size, or sex ratio
- Decreased post-natal survival

Bieber et al., J Androl 27: 189-200, 2006

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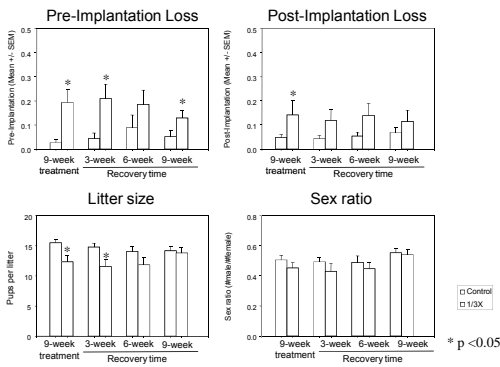
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**Progeny outcome after recovery**



Marcon et al. J Androl. 2008; 29:408-417

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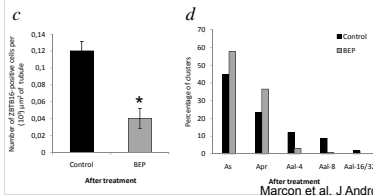
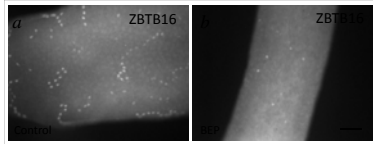
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**BEP treatment affects the clonal organization of undifferentiated spermatogonia**



Marcon et al. J Androl 2011 in press

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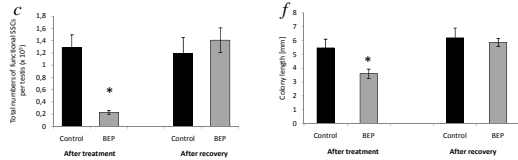
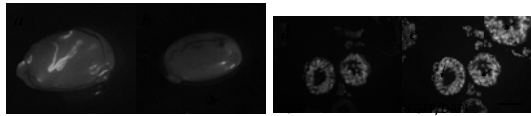
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**BEP treatment decreases rat SSC activity and colony lengths**



Marcon et al. Biol Reprod. 2010; 83:228-239.

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**Regimen for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL): CHOP**

- Cyclophosphamide: alkylates DNA, causing cross links
- Doxorubicin: inhibits topoisomerase II, generates free radicals
- Vincristine: binds tubulin, depolymerizes microtubules
- Prednisone: glucocorticoid

**Objectives**

- To evaluate the effects of treatment with CHOP on spermatogenesis, gamete genetic integrity, and progeny outcome in the rat.
- 2) To determine the effects of CHOP chemotherapy for NHL on sperm chromatin quality and the time course of recovery.

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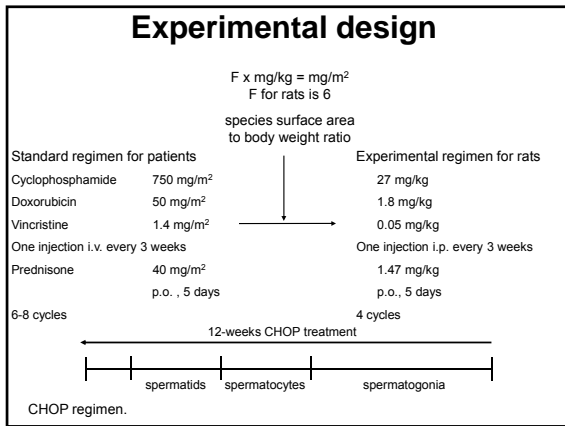
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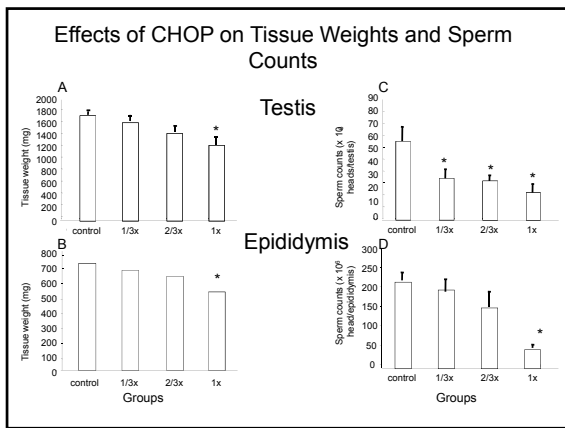
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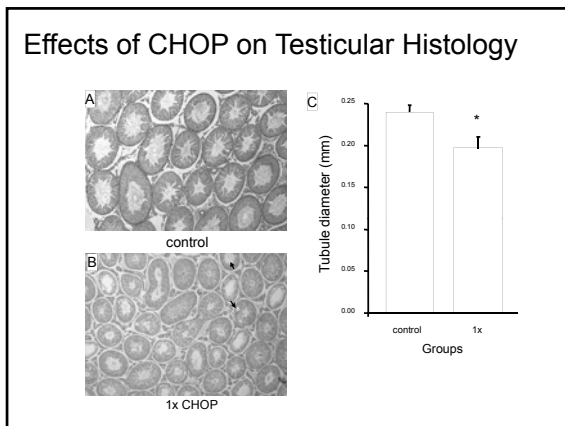
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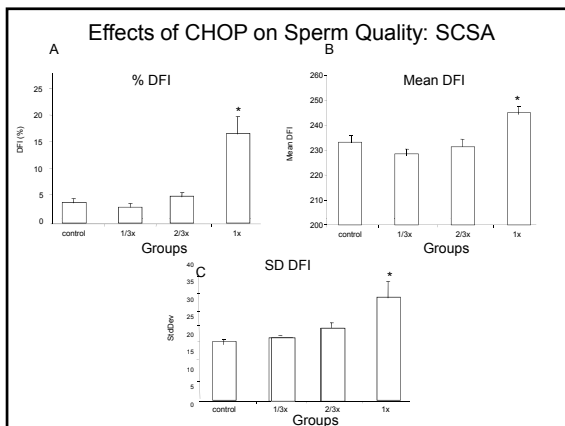
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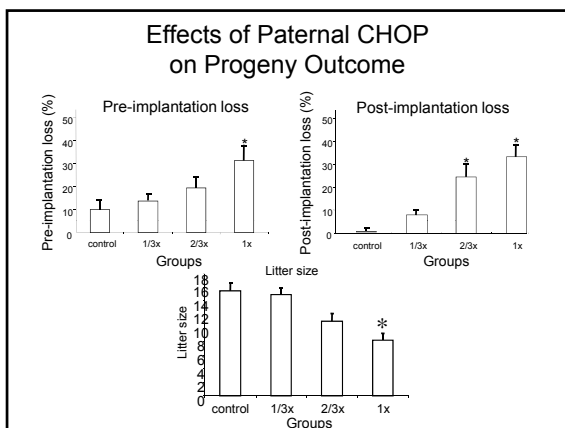
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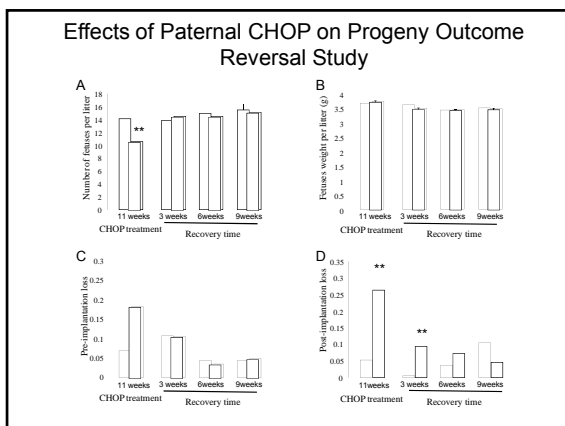
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### Male-Mediated Developmental Toxicity

- The treatment regimens for both testis cancer (BEP) and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (CHOP) have adverse effects on male germ cells and progeny outcome in the rat model.
- Both BEP and CHOP affect multiple parameters of sperm chromatin quality and function. BEP, but not CHOP, affects spermatogonial stem cells.

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### Sperm Quality: Chromatin Biomarkers

- Sperm decondensation
- Breaks and cross-links and integrity of chromatin
- Chromatin template function
- Chromatin structure
- Chromatin epigenome

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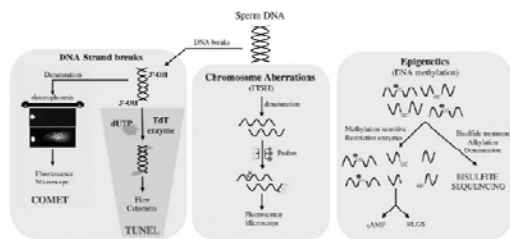
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### Sperm Quality: Chromatin Biomarkers



Delbes et al., Mol. Human Reprod. 2010

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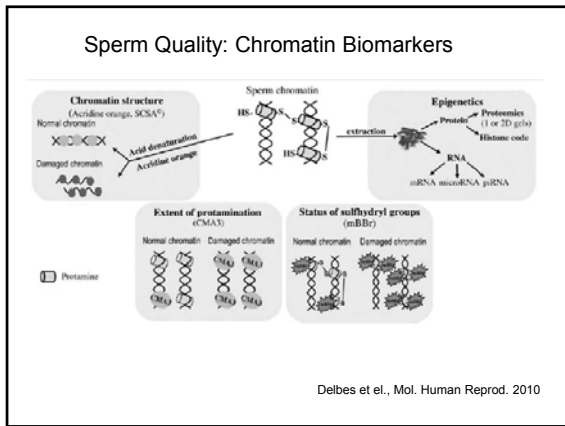
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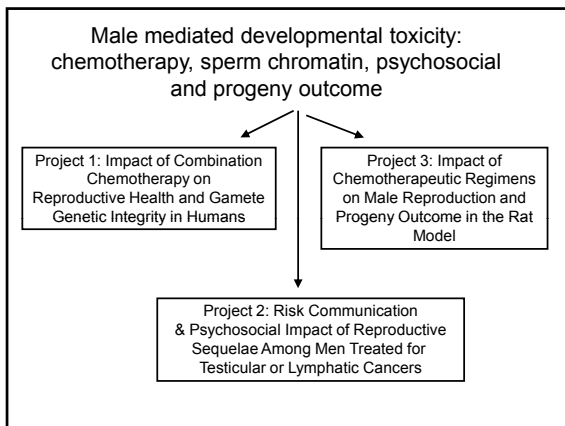
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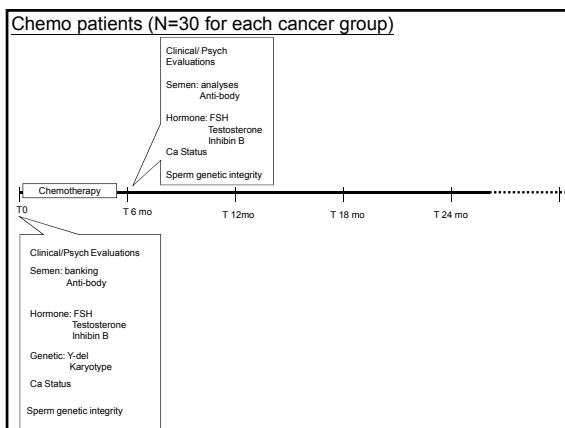
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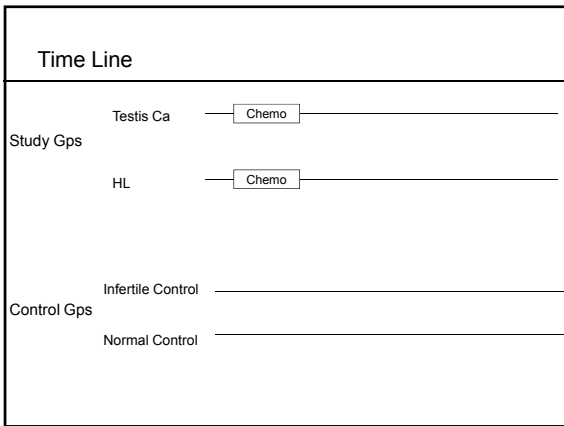
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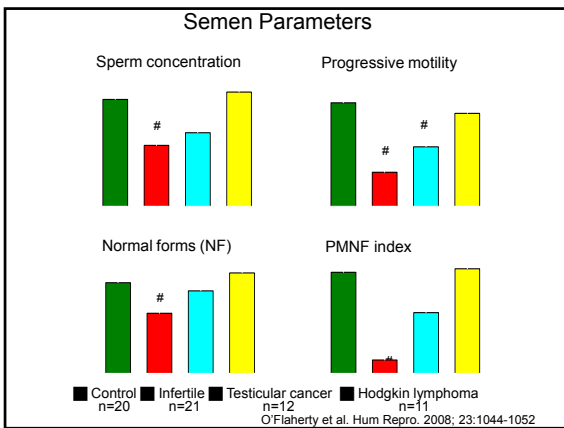
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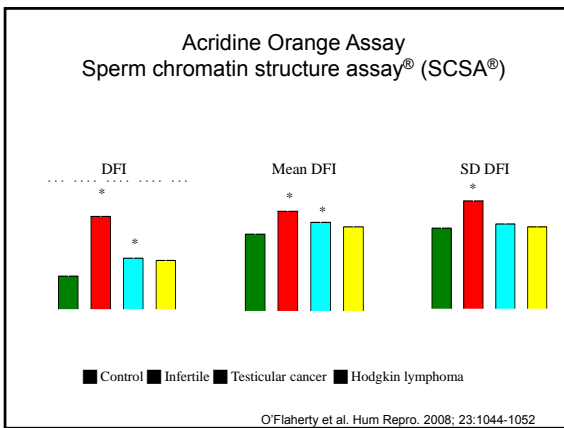
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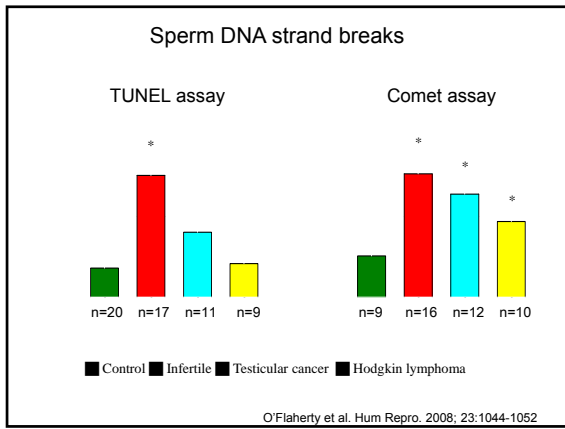
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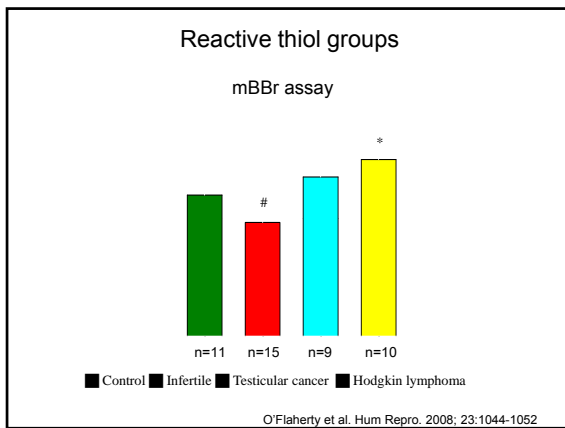
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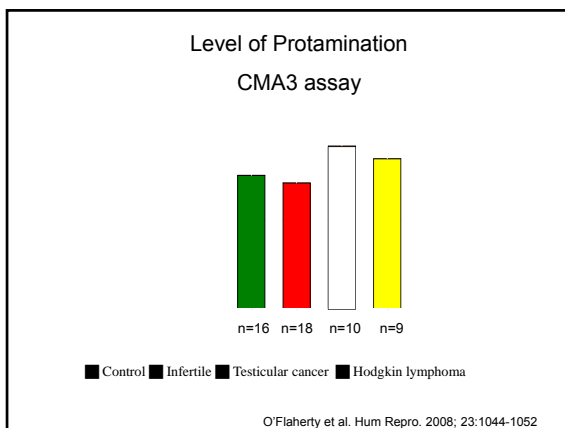
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## CONCLUSIONS

- \* Spermatozoa from cancer or infertile patients have lower sperm chromatin quality than in the control group.
- \* SCSA®, TUNEL and comet assays similarly predict sperm chromatin quality in infertile patients.
- \* In cancer patients, sperm chromatin anomalies can be identified best using the comet assay.
- \* Routine semen parameters fail to predict sperm chromatin quality.

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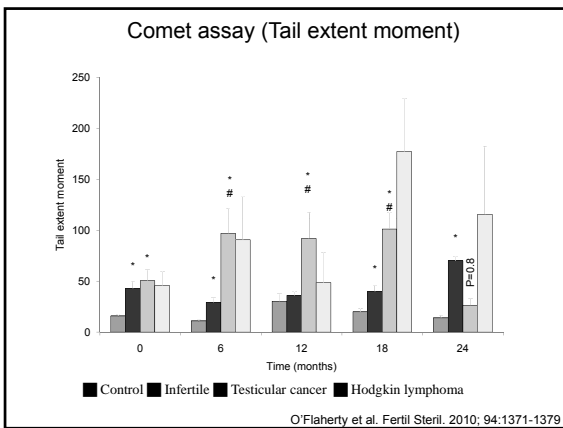
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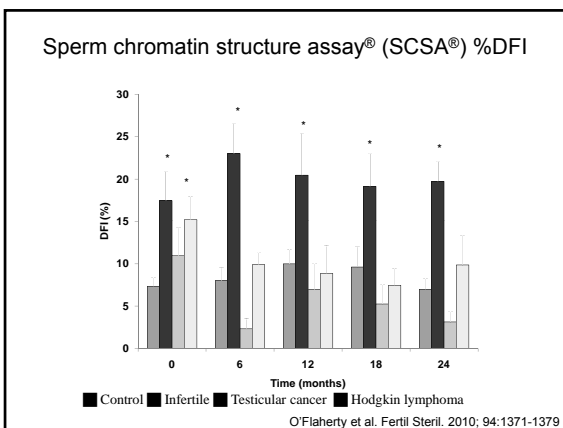
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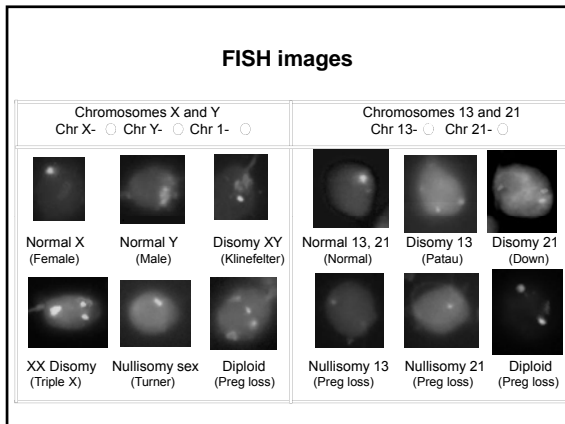
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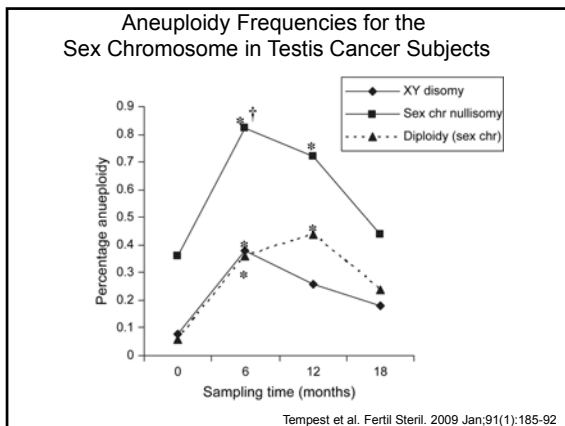
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## CONCLUSIONS

- Sperm generated post-chemotherapy maintain a significant degree of chromatin damage. Thus, survivors of TC and HL are at risk of having abnormal reproductive outcome.
- Proper counseling to these patients on reproductive risks and fertility preservation prior to chemotherapy is recommended.

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Brydøy et al. J Natl Cancer Inst 2005; 97:1580-1588 .  
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Qiu et al., Biol Reprod. 1992; 46:926-931.  
Sawyer and Aitken, 2001

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## Recreational drugs (smoking, alcohol and cannabis)

**Sheena E. M. Lewis**



Centre for Public Health  
Queen's University Belfast  
s.e.lewis@qub.ac.uk



SIGA, ESHRE, Stockholm 2011

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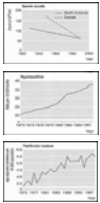
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### Is male reproductive health under threat?

- decreasing sperm counts
- congenital abnormalities
- testicular cancer
- inefficient reproduction
- lifestyle hazards- in the environment
- recreational drugs (smoking, alcohol and cannabis) .....



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### Are Lifestyle factors associated with semen quality?



Factors (evidence +, ++, +++)	Endpoints (evidence +, ++, +++)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smoking (+++)</li> <li>- Alcohol (++)</li> <li>- Caffeine (+)</li> <li>- Drugs (who me? ++)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sperm conc (+++)</li> <li>- Sperm motility (++)</li> <li>- Sperm motility by CASA (+)</li> <li>- Sperm morphology (++)</li> <li>- Sperm motility and acrosome reactions (++)</li> <li>- Sperm chromosome abnormalities (+)</li> </ul>



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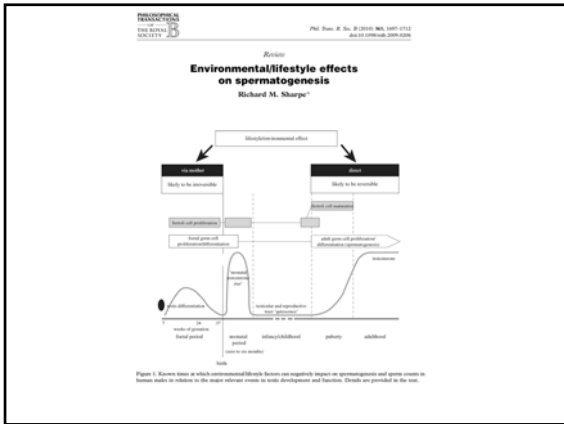
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## Recreational drug number 1: cigarette smoking



- Impotence: 120,000 men/year
- ↓ Sperm counts
- ↓ Sperm motility
- ↓ Normal sperm morphology
- Mutations passed to children
- ↑ childhood cancers with smoking fathers

**The sheer scale of smoke damage to fertility is shocking!**

British Medical Association 12 February 2004




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## Smoking & Spermatogenesis



Smoking has a small  $\rightarrow$  impact  
(Vine et al, 1994; Vine, 1996)

**Mechanism:** Hypoxia- high metabolic requirements

50% of arterial blood goes to arterio-venous anastomoses in spermatic cord  
(Maddocks et al 1993; Piner et al, 2002)

↓40% in sperm counts in sons by maternal smoking in utero SD  
(Ramlaou et al, 2007)

↓10-17% in sperm counts of heavy smokers in adults

**No effects**  
(Martini et al, 2004, Marinelli et al, 2004)

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## Smoking & Semen Quality



- Is smoking an independent risk factor for poor semen quality or fertility?
- Impact may depend on both amount of exposure (cigarettes/day) and duration (pack years)
- Additive or synergistic Lifestyle factors may co-occur.
  - Smoking and drinking? ("Pub" lifestyle, *Rubes et al., 1998*)
  - Abuse of alcohol and drugs? Unhealthy lifestyles, poor nutrition.
  - Smoking and vitamin C (protective?)

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## Are fertile men less susceptible to smoking and other lifestyle exposures?



- The "Healthy Men Study" (HMS)
  - Partners of pregnant women in a pregnancy outcome study
  - Exposure of interest: Disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in drinking water
  - Men lived in community with low DBPs, or high chlorinated DBPs or high brominated DBPs.
  - Exposure carefully characterized
  - Semen: Count/conc., morphology, and DNA damage (SCSA-%DFI) and immaturity (SCSA-%HDS)
  - No differences were found based on DBP exposures (Luben et al, 2007), adjusting for other factors.

*With kind permission from Lavelle K, Perreault, S, Olshan, A, 2010*

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## Analysis of Lifestyle Exposure factors in the 'Healthy Men Study' HMS



• **Smoking:** current, former or never; 0, 1-10, or >10 cigarettes/day, and years smoked (0, 1-5, 6-10 and >10). Pack years: /day /20 x years



• **Alcohol:** calculated based on average drinks [beers (12 oz), wine (4 oz) and hard liquor (1oz)] and categorized by # drinks/week: 0-7, 8-15 and >15



• **Caffeine:** Based on Coffee (and other caffeinated drinks), mg caffeine/day was calculated and categorized: none, >0 to 150 (low), >150-300 (moderate) and >300 (high = 3 cups coffee).

*With kind permission from Lavelle K, Perreault, S, Olshan, A, 2010*

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## Statistical Analysis in HMS

- Lifestyle exposure factors were examined (controlling for study site, age, income, education, abstinence interval, history of chronic or serious illness, body mass index (BMI), with other study exposures (smoking, alcohol, caffeine) as potential confounders.
- Multiple linear regression was used to estimate associations of each lifestyle exposure factor and each outcome. Full model (with all covariates) was evaluated for each covariate and only those that changed the parameter estimate of the exposure variable by at least 10% were retained. Age, sexual abstinence, income and study site were retained as obligate, along with any factor that met the criteria for confounding
- Semen outcomes were also dichotomized when possible for logistic regression: percent normal forms at <15%; and, SCSA %DFI at >30% according to the literature.

*With kind permission from Lavelle K, Perreault, S, Olshan, A, 2010*

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## Conclusion



**The HMS findings show that, on average, men in this fertile cohort have above average semen quality and below average consumption of cigarettes and alcohol**

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## Recreational drug number 2: Alcohol



- ↓ testosterone
- ↓ impaired semen volume
- ↓ sperm concentration
- ↓ sperm motility
- ↓ normal sperm morphology
- but the good news- its reversible!

*Donnelly, Lewis et al, Andrologia 1 43-47 1999  
Vicari et al, J Endo Invest 25 473-476 2002  
Muthusami et al, Fertility and Sterility 84 919-924 2005  
Oliva et al, Rep Tox 22 599-605, 2006*

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**Alcohol and Spermatogenesis** 

**Alcoholism associated**

- with impotence and testicular atrophy

*Boyden et al, Endocrine Rev 1983*

- **Spermatogenesis decreases ∞ alcohol intake**

*Pajarinen et al, Alc Clin Exp Res 1996*

- **XY aneuploidy (RR=1.38, CI 1.2-1)**

*Robbins et al, Cyto Genet 2005*

- **Synergistic effects of alcohol and smoking**

*Mendiola , Agarwal et al, 2008*

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**Alcohol and semen quality** 

**Most studies do NOT show a significant effect on**

- sperm counts with moderate drinking

*(Marinelli et al, 2004; Martini et al, 2004)*

**in contrast in chronic alcoholics**

- impaired spermatogenesis
- reduced sperm counts
- reduced testosterone levels

*(Villalta et al, 1997; Muthusami and Chinnaswamy, 2005, reviewed by Sharpe, 2010)*

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**Alcohol, drugs, caffeine, tobacco, and environmental contaminant exposure: Reproductive health consequences and clinical implications**

Sadeu, J. C.; Hughes, Claude L.; Agarwal, Sanjay; Foster, Warren G  
*Critical Reviews in Toxicology 40, 7, 2010, ., 633-652*

**Cigarette smoking is strongly associated with adverse reproductive outcomes**

**High exposure to alcohol, drugs and caffeine are only weakly linked with negative outcomes**




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### Recreational drug number 3

Phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors  
such as sildenafil citrate and tadalafil

- between 1998- 2005, 1 billion scripts
- for impotence
- for sexual enhancement
- in treatment of diabetes
- in infertility clinics




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### Phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors Sildenafil citrate

- Use with Serotonin for temporary ejaculation failure during ART  
Lu et al, FS 2009
- Adjunct tool for ↑ Leydig function and contractility of epididymis  
Dimitriadis et al, Curr Pharma Design 2009
- ↑ sperm motility and viability, opp effects at higher doses
- ↓ sperm motility and viability with Tadalafil  
Pomara et al, FS 2007
- Contradicted by Hellstrom et al, Eur Urol 2008
- No effects on volume, concentration, integrity or penetration
- Variable effects on capacitation  
Mostafa Int J Impotence 2008
- ↑↓ fertilizing ability  
Dimitriadis et al, Asian J Androl 2008




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


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### Methods to determine the direct effects of Viagra on sperm function

- Conc of 450ng/mL~ 100mg oral dose  
generously donated by Pfizer
- Quantitative motility 0-135 min using CASA
- Acrosome reaction by PNA-FITC

➤ *in vitro* (n=45)

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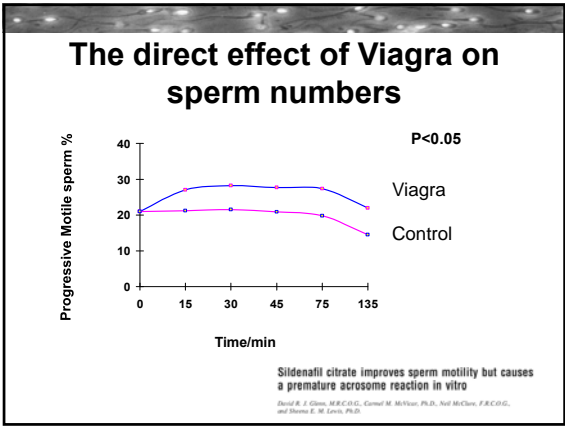
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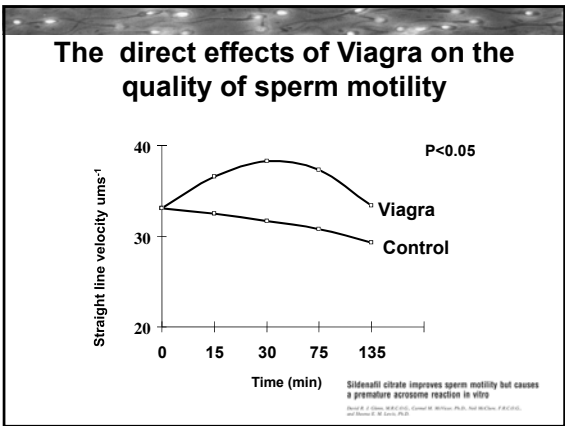
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### Alterations in sperm motility after acute oral administration of sildenafil or tadalafil in young, infertile men

Giorgio Pomara, M.D.,<sup>a</sup> Giuliano Morelli, M.D.,<sup>a</sup> Domenico Canale, M.D.,<sup>a</sup> Paolo Turchi, M.D.,<sup>a</sup> Carolina Cagliari, Ph.D.,<sup>b</sup> Cecilia Moschini, Ph.D.,<sup>b</sup> Giovanni Ligouri, M.D.,<sup>c</sup> Cesare Selli, M.D.,<sup>c</sup> Enrico Macchia, M.D.,<sup>c</sup> Enzo Martino, M.D.,<sup>c</sup> and Francesco Panerai, M.D.<sup>c</sup>

**TABLE 1**

**Seminal parameters in basal conditions and after either sildenafil or tadalafil.**

Seminal parameters	Basal	Sildenafil	Tadalafil
Volume (mL)	2.9 ± 0.4 (2.8)	2.4 ± 0.4 (2.1)	2.7 ± 0.5 (2.1)
pH	7.9 ± 0.2 (8.0)	7.9 ± 0.2 (7.8)	7.9 ± 0.1 (7.8)
Sperm count (million per mL)	29.1 ± 6.0 (17.4)	31.5 ± 5.9 (22.1)	28.6 ± 5.9 (17.3)
Rapid progressive motility (%)	11.9 ± 2.1 (10.5)	18.8 ± 2.7 (18.5)	8.6 ± 1.8 (6.0)
Total progressive motility (%) <sup>a</sup>	28.6 ± 3.4 (28.5)	35.5 ± 3.3 (37.0)	24.2 ± 3.2 (21.5)
Normal forms (%)	23.7 ± 6.1 (11.0)	24.8 ± 3.8 (16.0)	23.6 ± 4.2 (15.5)

Note: All data are mean ± SE (median).  
<sup>a</sup>Class a (rapid) + b (slow) progressive motility.  
 Pomara, Sildenafil, tadalafil and seminal parameters. Fertil Steril 2007.

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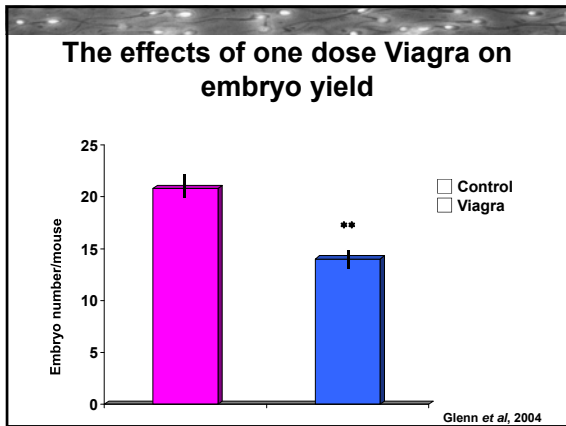
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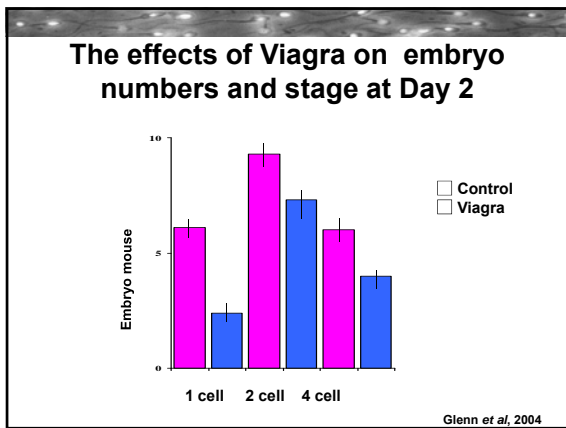
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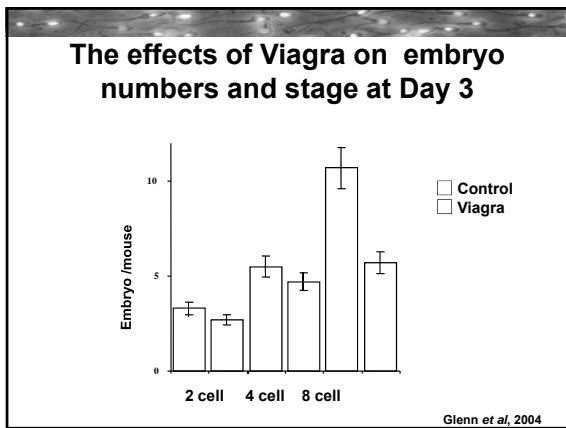
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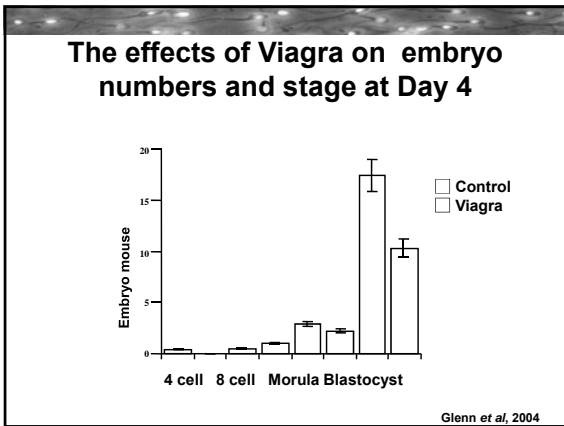
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### Developmental toxicity of orally administered sildenafil citrate (Viagra) in SWR/J mice

Abou- Tarboush et al, 2001



Sildenafil citrate to 285 pregnant mice at 1-50mg on 7-9,10-12 or 13-15 days gestation

- No maternal toxicity
- No external, internal or skeletal malformations
- 40mg → fetal growth suppression at all times
- 25-40mg at 13-15 days → embryo-fetal toxicity

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### Recreational Drug No 4 (Cannabis - $\delta$ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol; THC)




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## Cannabis and Male Fertility

- ↑ sexual behaviour in humans
- ↓ sexual behaviour in animals
- ↓↑ effects on spermatogenesis
- Highly variable effects on motility
- Increased chromatin condensation
- Damage to developing sperm




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## Cannabis and endocrine profiles - animal studies

- **Suppression of LH and accumulation of THC in testis**  
*Ho et al, 1970*
- **Acute and chronic doses both decrease testosterone**  
*List et al, 1997; Harclerode et al, 1978*
- **No changes in FSH, no direct oestrogenic effect**  
*Ruh et al, 1997; Fernandez-Ruiz et al, 1997*
- **Reduced nucleic acid and protein synthesis**
- **In Leydig cells**  
*Jakubovic et al 1979; Husain et al 1979*




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## Potency of THC on the streets

 <p><b>WHITE WIDOW</b> Marijuana strain, known for its high potency. Percentage of active ingredient (THC) 8.2. Price 1/8 ounce £20-£25.</p>	 <p><b>SUPER SKUNK</b> Green leaf, strong odour. Known as "super-weed". Percentage of active ingredient (THC) 9.9. Price 1/8 ounce £20-£25.</p>	
 <p><b>HASHISH: HESH</b> Also known as "bambas" (in Arabic) or "hash". Percentage of active ingredient (THC) 4.3. Price 1/8 ounce £10.</p>	 <p><b>HOME-GROWN SKUNK</b> Grown in soil without lights. Percentage of active ingredient (THC) 3.4. Price 1/8 ounce £20-£25.</p>	 <p><b>WEED</b> Soil-grown plant, also known as "grass". Percentage of active ingredient (THC) 6.8. Price 1/8 ounce £10-£15.</p>

*The Observer 18 January 2004*

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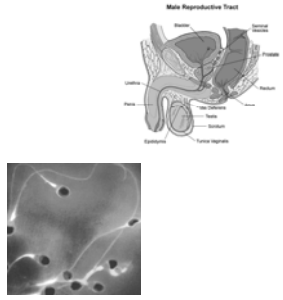
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**Are endocannabinoids present in the male reproductive system?**  
**Cannabinoid (CB1) receptors are present in**

- Testis**  
*Gerard et al, 1991*
- Vas deferens**  
*Pertwee et al, 2002*
- Epididymis**
- Prostate**  
*reviewed by Schuel et al, 2002*
- Sea urchin sperm**  
*Chang et al, 1993*
- Human sperm**  
*Schuel et al, 2002*




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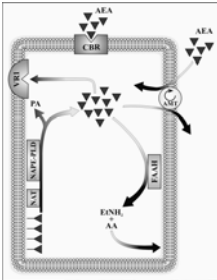
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**The endocannabinoid system in sperm**



**Sperm have**

- CBR receptors**
- Vanilloid (TRPV1) receptors**
- AEA**
- NAPE-PLD**
- AMT**
- FAAH**

*Bull sperm study by Maccarrone et al, 2005*

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**Endocannabinoid Effects on Sertoli Cells**

- Sertoli cells have CB1R and CB2R and can degrade AEA
- FAAH activity ↓ with Sertoli cell age
- AMT ↓ with age but ↑ by NO donors
- ↑AEA can force Sertoli cells into apoptosis
- FSH activates FAAH via mRNA and PrS to prevent this

*Maccarrone et al, 2003*

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### Therapeutic and Recreational Concentrations of THC

- 0.001 μg/mL ~ therapeutic
- 0.01 μg/mL ~ recreational
- 1.5 μg/mL ~recreational

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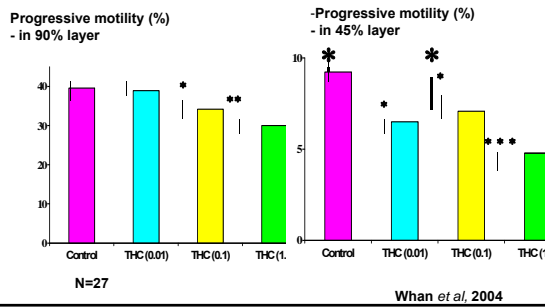
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### Direct effects of THC on sperm motility




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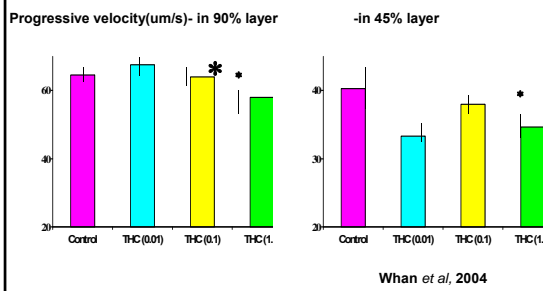
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### Direct effects of THC on sperm motility




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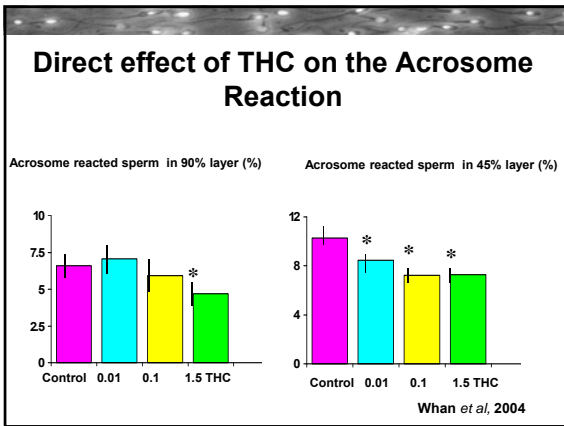
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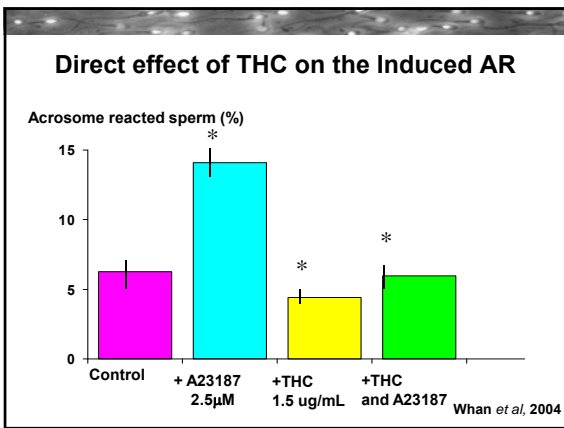
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## What are the mechanisms of action?

i) Reduced ATP by impaired mitochondrial function

**Cannabinoids inhibit the respiration of human sperm**

Potent inhibitors of mt O<sub>2</sub> / min/10<sup>6</sup> sperm

**Δ<sup>9</sup>-Tetrahydrocannabinol disrupts mitochondrial function and cell energetics**

↓ mt membrane potential by JC-1 uncoupling of electron transport

THOMAS A. BARAFAN, BEATRIZ KOCUMCIAN, FARAZ KHORRAMSHEDEH, DONALD P. FABRYN, AND MICHAEL D. BOTTI  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY, CENTER FOR HEALTH RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095  
Revised 12/16/04, accepted 1/10/05, first published 1/10/05

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## What are the mechanisms of action?

ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> messenger systems- Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels

**Abstract**  
**Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Learning and Memory Impairments Produced by Cannabinoids**  
 →G protein mediated inhibition of Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels

**Abstract**  
**THE EFFECTS OF CANNABINOIDS ON THE BRAIN**  
 → Shrinkage of neurons  
 → DNA fragmentation in hippocampus

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*Alcohol & Alcoholism* Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 126-133, 2000


REVIEW

ARE ANANDAMIDE AND CANNABINOID RECEPTORS INVOLVED IN ETHANOL TOLERANCE? A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE  
 B. L. HUNGUNDI<sup>1\*</sup> and B. S. BASAVARAJPU<sup>2</sup>

**Involvement of 2-arachidonoyl glycerol in the increased consumption of and preference for ethanol of mice treated with neurotoxic doses of methamphetamine**

MD Gutierrez-Lopez<sup>1\*</sup>, N Llopis<sup>1\*</sup>, S Feng<sup>2</sup>, DA Barnett<sup>1</sup>, E O'Shea<sup>1†</sup> and MI Colado<sup>1†</sup>

**Cannabinoids lead to voluntary EtOH consumption and preference in animals!**




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## Conclusions

- Recreational drugs may impair male reproduction, either singly or together
- It is difficult to determine the impact of any one factor separate from other factors as men often use several recreational drugs together
- Very little is currently known about the mechanisms behind observed associations, how lifestyle factors may interact, and whether some men are inherently more vulnerable than others




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## Acknowledgements

Ciara Hughes  
Kristine Steele  
Michael O'Connell  
Lauren Dalzell

Eilish Donnelly  
Ishola Agbaje  
Carmel McVicar  
Margaret Kennedy



The Wellcome Trust



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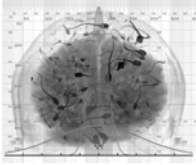
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## Good Sperm, Good Brain?


The Connection Between Semen Quality & Intelligence




**Arand Pierce, MD, FCAP**

Attending Pathologist  
Department of Pathology, Veterans Hospital  
New Mexico VA Health Care System

Assistant Professor  
Department of Pathology, University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA



European Society of  
Human Reproduction and Embryology



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**Disclosure: No conflicts of interest for any collaborators**

Rosalind Arden, King's College London  
Linda S Gottfredson, University of Delaware  
Geoffrey Miller, University of New Mexico  
Arand Pierce, NMVA Health Systems, University of New Mexico

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### Learning Objectives

- Understand why intelligence and semen quality may both be influenced by common genetic factors that influence overall survival fitness
- Understand the biologic commonalities of sperm and neuron function that may be influenced by pleiotropic mutations of those common genetic factors that affect overall fitness



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## Background/Hypothesis

- Survival adaptations
  - Low heritability, low phenotypic and genetic variation between individuals of a species
- Survival fitness ( $f$ )
  - The statistical propensity to survival and reproductive success, under ancestrally normal conditions
  - In courtship, fitness indicators have higher variation, and advertise highly heritable traits promising good genes and good health
    - These indicators are so costly that only high-fitness individuals can maintain them




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## Background/Hypothesis

- “...During human evolution, mate choice by both sexes focused increasingly on intelligence as a major component of biological fitness – both for its heritable genetic benefits and its relevance to parenting ability. Many human-specific behaviors (such as conversation, music production, artistic ability, and humor) may have evolved principally to advertise intelligence during courtship.”



Miller GF, 2000

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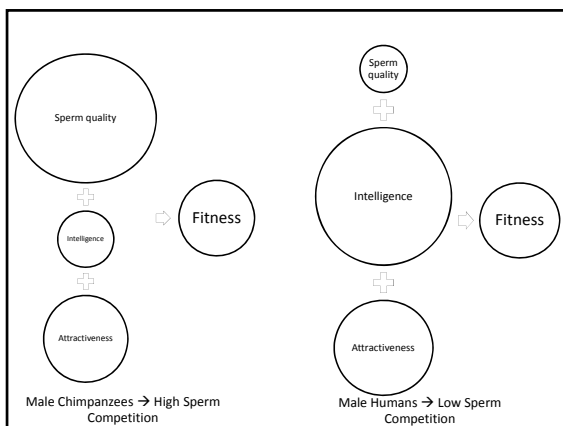
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## Background/Hypothesis

- If intelligence is a prominent component of survival fitness, is there a correlation between sperm quality and intelligence?



Courtesy of M. Ardén

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## Subjects

- The Center for Disease Control Vietnam Experience Study
  - Multidimensional health assessment of American veterans of the Vietnam War
  - A random sample of enlisted men who entered the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1971, 7,924 Vietnam and 7364 non-Vietnam veterans participated in a telephone interview.
  - A random subsample of 2,490 Vietnam and 1,972 non-Vietnam veterans also underwent a comprehensive health examination, including medical examination, laboratory tests, and a psychological evaluation.
  - A Subset of 425 men submitted semen samples
    - Mean Age: 38
    - 35% white
    - 48% black
    - 16 Hispanic
    - 4 Asian/Pacific Islander
    - 2 Native American/Native Alaskan
  - Data published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in numerous publications circa 1988

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## Intelligence metrics ( $g$ )

- $g$  = the general factor of mental ability
- Principal axis factoring of five tests to extract  $g$ 
  - Verbal and Arithmetic tests
    - Army Classification Battery
  - Spatial awareness tests
    - Information and Block Design subtests of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Revised
  - Reading comprehension
    - Subtest of the Wide Range Achievement Test

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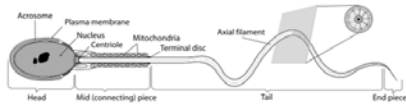
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## Semen quality metrics

- Sperm concentration (millions of sperm per ml of semen),  $\log_{10}$  transformed
- Sperm count (millions of sperm in the total ejaculate)  $\log_{10}$  transformed
- Sperm motility (percentage of motile sperm)




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## Results

- Significant but modest positive correlations between intelligence and 3 key indices of semen quality:
  - Log sperm concentration ( $r=.15, p=0.002$ )
  - Log sperm count ( $r=.19, p<0.001$ )
  - Sperm motility ( $r=.14, p=.002$ )
- Correlations controlled for:
  - Sexual abstinence (no. of days prior to sample)
  - Age
  - Body Mass Index
  - Drinking alcohol (drinks per month)
  - Smoking (cigarettes per day)
  - Drugs: marijuana or hard drugs (past & current use examined separately)
  - Service in Vietnam

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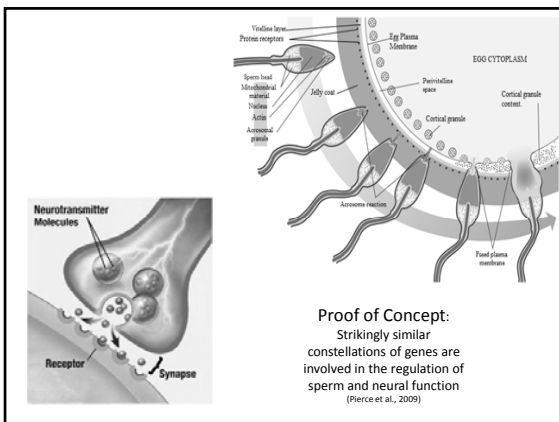
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- SNAREs are concentrated at presynaptic terminals of neurons, as well as the acrosomal region of sperm (Rizo et al. 2002, Tomes et al. 2005)
- SNAREs also mediate hypothalamic release of gonadotropin releasing hormone, thyrotropin releasing hormone, and growth hormone
  - Possible effect on other traits of fitness

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### Other commonalities

- Glial cell line derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) (Meng et al., 2000)
- Tight genetic regulation of polyunsaturated fatty acids of plasma membrane
  - Spatial compartmentalization of membrane microdomains of lipids and proteins (lipid rafts) coordinates the sequences of signal transduction required for spermatogenesis, maturation, capacitation, acrosomal reaction (AR) and ultimately fertilization (Lenzi et al., 2000)

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### More commonalities

- Sperm, retinal photoreceptor cells, and olfactory sensory neurons employ conserved cyclic nucleotide gated calcium ion channels
  - Many of these channels in sperm are T-type voltage-gated  $Ca^{2+}$  ion channels involved in AR regulation (Florman et al., 1998; Stamboulian et al., 2004)

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### More commonalities

- Other odorant gene family receptors are sperm-specific, directly regulating sperm motility and chemotaxis via activation of  $\text{Ca}_v3.2$  ( $\alpha_{1H}$ )  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ion channels (Spehr et al., 2003, Babcock 2003)
  - The *CACNA1H* gene encodes this ion channel, which is heavily expressed in the neocortex as well. Various mutations have been implicated in case studies of childhood absence seizures (Chen et al., 2003) and idiopathic generalized epilepsy (Heron et al., 2004)

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### Implications

- If most genes have pleiotropic effects on several traits (e.g. sperm and neuron function), then most mutations will harm several traits in parallel and create positive genetic correlations among traits, as manifest in an  $f$  (fitness) factor (Arden, 2009)

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### The real question

- Is the  $g$  factor a special case of a more general fitness factor  $f$  that captures individual differences in general phenotypic quality? (Houle, 2000)

$f \rightarrow g \rightarrow$ 


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$$f \rightarrow g?$$

- Numerous studies link  $g$  with better longevity, attractiveness, health, etc. (Batty et al., 2007; Bates, 2007)
- $f$ , like  $g$ , is likely not traceable to single genetic loci with Mendelian inheritance
  - “The data imply that the genes causing the high heritability of IQ do not code for different levels of psychometric intelligence per-sé but are pleiotropic—expressed in many systems, and acting on fitness in the same direction, positive or negative in all the systems in which they are expressed” (Bates, 2007)

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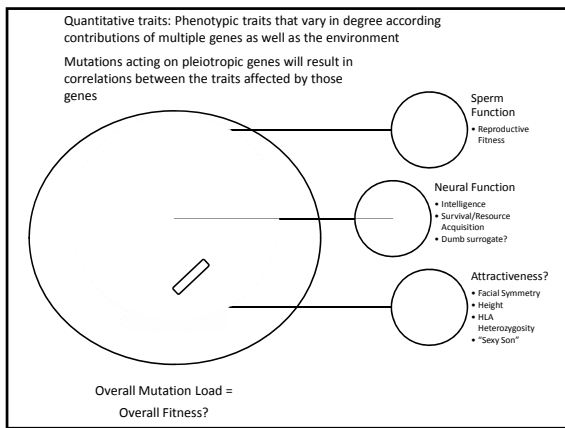
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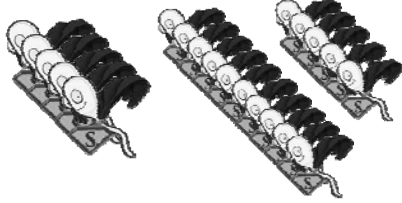
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## EXERCISE: FIT SPERM?



Diana Vaamonde, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
University of Cordoba  
No potential conflict of interest.

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## Exercise: Fit Sperm ????

1. Prior considerations
2. Physical Exercise vs. Physical Activity
3. Physical Exercise/Training Load Variables
4. Background: Exercise vs. reproductive system
5. Endocrine system and reproductive system
6. Recent research (Intensity, Volume, and Modality)
7. Exercise: bad sperm????
8. Take home message and challenges

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## Is Exercise Health???



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### Physical Exercise vs. Physical Activity

Both terms refer to the voluntary movements you do that burn calories (energy expenditure)

- Physical activities are activities that get your body moving.
- Exercise is a form of physical activity that is planned, structured and done to improve at least one aspect of physical fitness\*\*\* that is, strength, flexibility or aerobic endurance.

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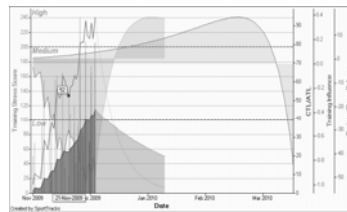
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### Physical Exercise/Training Load Variables

- Intensity:
- Volume:
- Frequency:
- Type of exercise:
  - Strength
  - Endurance



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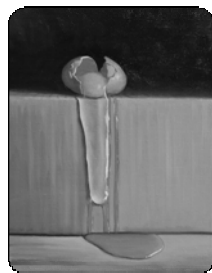
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### Background: Exercise vs. Reproductive System



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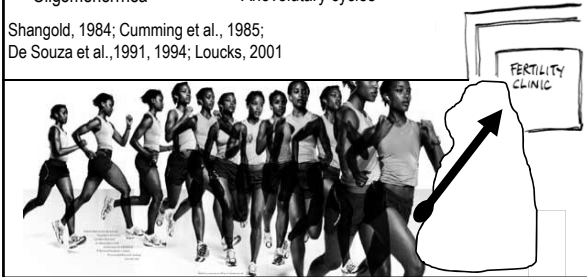
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## Elite FEMALE Athletes

- Hormonal decrease
- Delayed menarche
- Oligomenorrhea
- Amenorrhea
- Inadequate luteal phase
- Anovulatory cycles

Shangold, 1984; Cumming et al., 1985;  
De Souza et al., 1991, 1994; Loucks, 2001




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## Endocrine system and Reproductive System

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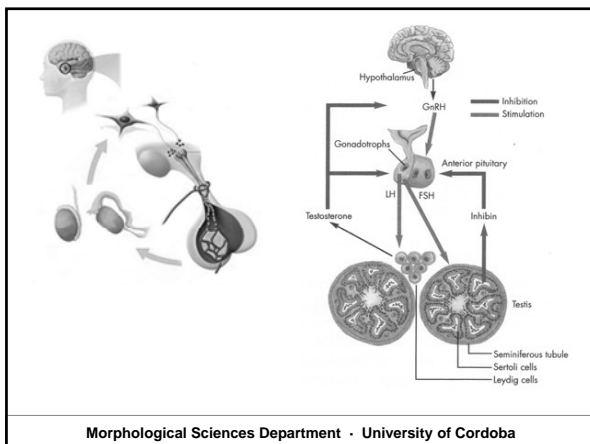
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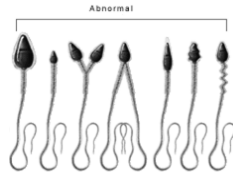


## Disrupting agents of endocrine and reproductive homeostasis

and...

An extenuating physical exercise may provoke alterations on the reproductive system.

(Cumming et al., 1985; Shangold, 1984)



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## Adequate assessment of male reproductive potential

- Hormonal analysis
- Semen analysis
- Fertilizing capacity assessment

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## Semen Analysis

- Complete sexual abstinence: 3–6 days
- Questionnaire.
- Time between sample collection and delivery: under 30 minutes
- Physical parameters: volume\*
- Microscopical qualitative parameters:
  - Sperm concentration and total sperm number\*
  - Sperm Velocity (a, b, c, d)\*
  - Sperm Morphology \*

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## What is known...

- Hormonal Responses
  - Marathon
  - Cyclists
  - Swimmers
- Semen Response
  - Marathon
  - Cyclists
  - Swimmers
- VOLUME THRESHOLD (De Souza and Miller, 1993)

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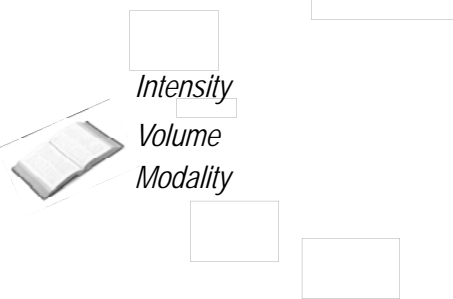
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## Recent research



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International Journal  
of Sports Medicine

## Intensity

Design

**16 Subjects**



**8 (CG)**

**Control Group**

**8 (EG)**

**Experimental Group**

Vaamonde et al., 2006. Reproductive profile of physically active men after exhaustive endurance exercise.  
*Int J Sports Med.* 2006;27(9):680-9

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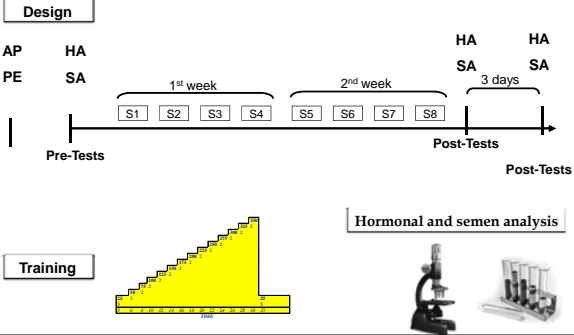
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# Intensity

Training parameter: 2 weeks of cycle ergometer exercise to exhaustion.




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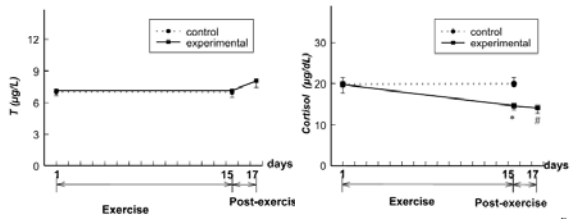
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## Testosterone and Cortisol



Vaamonde et al., 2006.

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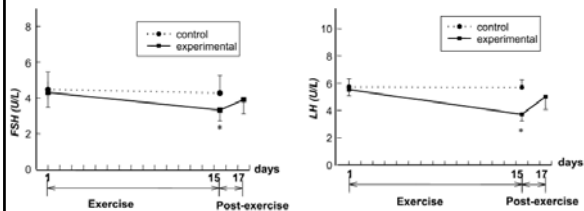
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## FSH and LH



Vaamonde et al., 2006.

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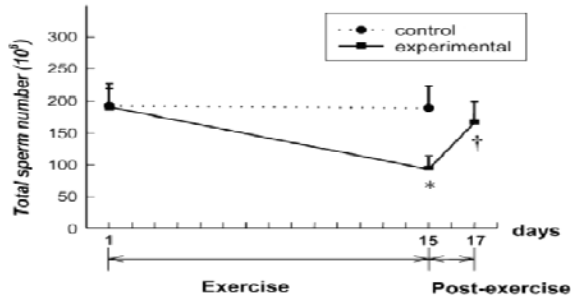
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Sperm Concentration, ejaculate volume, total sperm number




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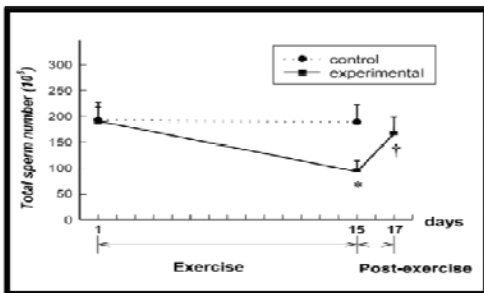
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Sperm Concentration, ejaculate volume, total sperm number



Vaamonde et al., 2006.

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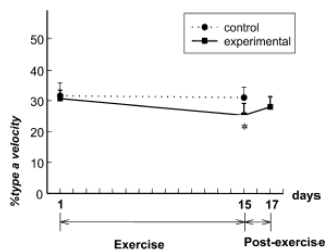
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Type "a" Velocity



Vaamonde et al., 2006.

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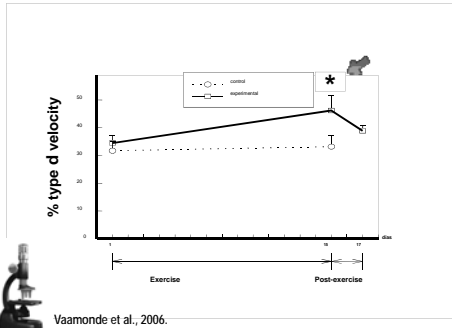
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## Type "d" Velocity



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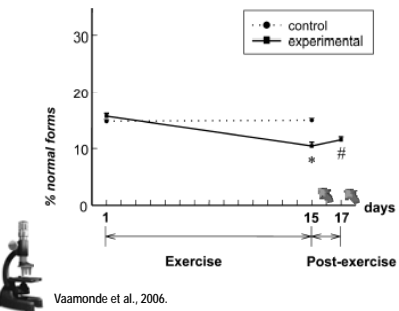
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## Sperm Morphology



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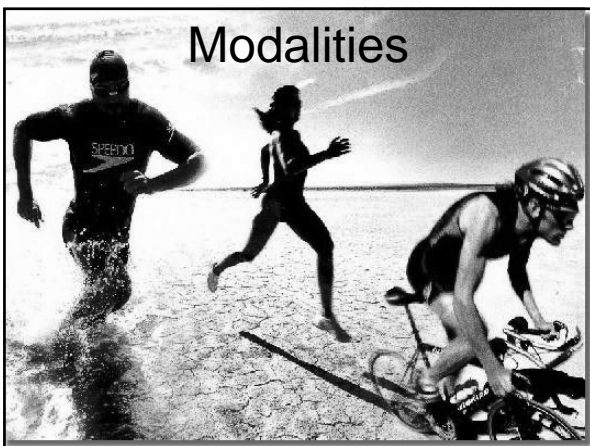
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## Response of semen parameters to three training modalities.

Vaamonde D<sup>a</sup>, Da Silva Grigoletto ME<sup>b</sup>, García-Manso JM<sup>c</sup>,  
Vaamonde-Lemos R<sup>a</sup>, Swanson RJ<sup>d</sup>, Oehninger SC<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Morphological Sciences Department, School of Medicine, University of Córdoba – Spain

<sup>b</sup>Andalusian Center of Sports Medicine, Córdoba – Spain

<sup>c</sup>Physical Education Department, School of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria – Spain

<sup>d</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University and Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA – USA.

<sup>e</sup>The Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA – USA

Fertil Steril. 2009; 92(6):1941-6Nov 14.

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## Modality

### Methods

- **Exclusion criteria**
  - Any condition possibly impairing reproduction
- **Inclusion criteria**
  - Not exclusion criteria,
  - Minimum practice of 3 hours/week
  - VO<sub>2</sub>max ≥ 40 ml/min/kg.

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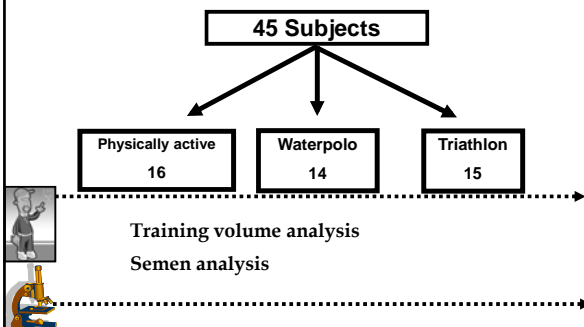
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## Modality

### Methods



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Methods		Modality		
	Physically Active	Water Polo	Triathletes	
Subjects	16	14	15	
Age (years)	19.0 ± 1.8 <sup>bc</sup>	25.5 ± 3.2 <sup>bc</sup>	33.1 ± 3.5 <sup>ab</sup>	
Weight (kg)	73.1 ± 8.3 <sup>b</sup>	79.9 ± 10.7 <sup>bc</sup>	74.5 ± 7.6 <sup>b</sup>	
Height (cm)	175.9 ± 4.2	180.1 ± 5.2	175.3 ± 3.7	
Body fat (%)	15.6 ± 3.0	13.2 ± 3.5	7.0 ± 2.9	
VO2max (ml/min/kg)	45.2 ± 4.2	54.2 ± 4.9	64.0 ± 5.1	
Years of training	1.6 ± 0.7	4.0 ± 1.1	8.1 ± 3.2	
Number of sessions/week	3.3 ± 0.4	5.0 ± 0.0	9.9 ± 1.8	
Duration of session (min)	60.0 ± 0.0	90.0 ± 0.0	122.6 ± 62.7 <sup>a</sup>	
Sports category	Local	Regional	International	

<sup>a</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to physically active subjects  
<sup>b</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to water polo players  
<sup>c</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to triathletes  
<sup>a</sup> Mean of all sessions (cycling, swimming, running)

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Results		Modality			
	Physically Active	Water Polo	Triathletes		
Volume (mL)	3.2 ± 0.9	3.4 ± 1.3	2.9 ± 0.9	P>0.05	
Sperm concentration (106/mL)	61.0 ± 23.0 <sup>c</sup>	58.0 ± 24.4 <sup>c</sup>	48.2 ± 14.7 <sup>ab</sup>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>	
Total sperm number (10 <sup>9</sup> )	191.8 ± 73.4 <sup>c</sup>	196.6 ± 85.4 <sup>c</sup>	141.3 ± 58.0 <sup>ab</sup>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>	
% Type "a" Vel.	31.1 ± 9.7 <sup>b</sup>	23.6 ± 8.8 <sup>bc</sup>	31.4 ± 8.7 <sup>b</sup>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>	
% Type "b" Vel.	25.6 ± 9.1 <sup>c</sup>	28.8 ± 12.3 <sup>c</sup>	18.9 ± 7.6 <sup>ab</sup>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>	
% Type "a+b" Vel.	56.7 ± 6.5	52.5 ± 11.1	50.3 ± 8.9	P>0.05	
% Type "c" Vel.	10.4 ± 5.0	14.3 ± 6.6	11.9 ± 6.3	P>0.05	
% Type "d" Vel.	33.0 ± 7.1 <sup>c</sup>	33.3 ± 11.3	38.4 ± 7.2 <sup>a</sup>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to physically active subjects  
<sup>b</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to water polo players  
<sup>c</sup> Significant differences (p< 0.05) compared to triathletes  
<sup>a</sup> ANOVA with repeated measures and Sidak *post hoc* test for multiple comparisons

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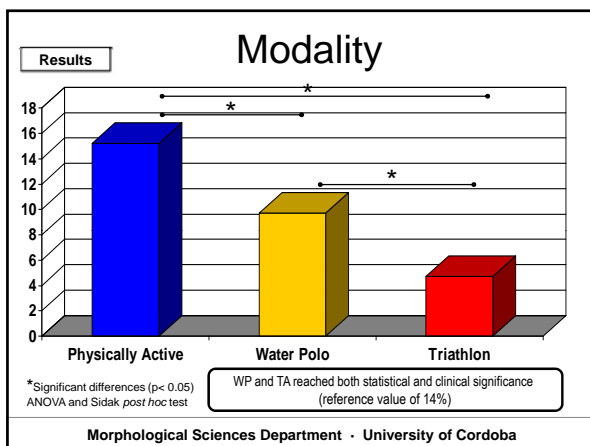
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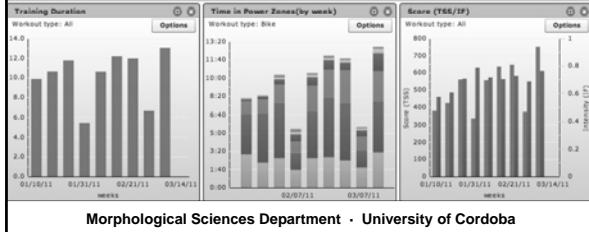
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## Training Volume ...




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## Correlation between cycling kilometers and sperm morphology in elite triathletes

Vaamonde D<sup>1</sup>, Da Silva-Grigoletto ME<sup>2</sup>, Cunha Filho JS<sup>3</sup>, Garcia-Manso JM<sup>4</sup>, Suarez Serra R<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>School of Medicine- Universidad de Córdoba, Spain.

<sup>2</sup>Andalusian Center of Sports Medicine -Junta de Andalucía. Córdoba, Spain

<sup>3</sup>Insermine Centro de Reprodução Humana and Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre. Porto Alegre, Brazil

<sup>4</sup>School of Physical Education- Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

<sup>5</sup>Centro Iberoamericano de Reproduccion Asistida, Uruguay

Presented at ESHRE 2009

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## Training Volume

### Methods

Fifteen male triathletes.

Subjects' demographics

Age (years)	33.1 ± 3.5
Weight (kg)	74.5 ± 7.6
Height (cm)	175.3 ± 3.7
Body fat (%)	7.0 ± 2.9
VO <sub>2</sub> max (ml/min/kg)	64.0 ± 5.1
Years of training	8.1 ± 3.2
Number of sessions/week	9.9 ± 1.8
Duration of session (min)	122.6 ± 62.7

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# Training Volume

## Methods

Training was carefully analyzed, especially with regards to weekly volume expressed as total volume or volume in each modality.



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# Training Volume

## Methods

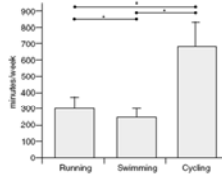


Fig. 1. Distribution of weekly training volume per practiced modality (expressed as minutes/week). Total volume= 1,254 minutes/week. Significantly differences (p<0.05) between modalities.

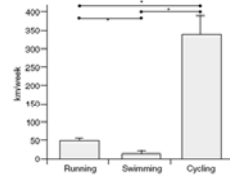


Fig. 2. Distribution of weekly training volume per practiced modality (expressed as km/week). Total volume= 391.5 km/week. Significantly differences (p<0.05) between modalities.

Elsevier®

Vaamonde et al., 2009

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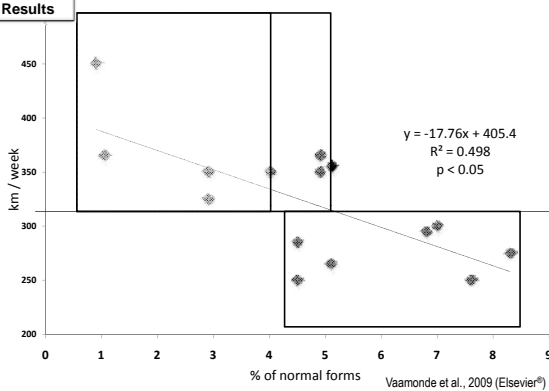
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## Results



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## Training Volume

### Conclusions

A high cycling volume, especially over 300km/week, is detrimental to sperm morphology.



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## Training Volume, Intensity and Modality

High-load physical exercise, whether intensity or volume may alter male reproductive function

- De Souza et al. (1994,1997), Hackney (1996); Vaamonde et al., 2009: **volume**
- Vaamonde et al., 2006: **intensity**

Triathletes show worse semen parameters than physically active subjects or water polo players.

- Vaamonde et al., 2009: **modality**

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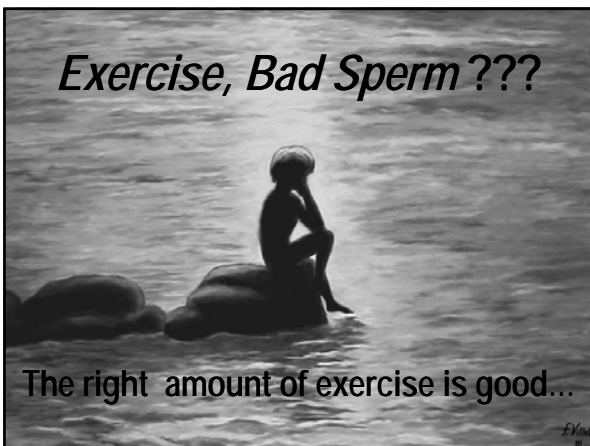
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*Exercise, Bad Sperm ???*



The right amount of exercise is good...

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## PHYSICALLY ACTIVE SUBJECTS SHOW BETTER SEMINOLOGICAL PARAMETERS THAN SEDENTARY SUBJECTS

Vaamonde D<sup>1</sup>, Da Silva-Grigoletto ME<sup>2</sup>, Swanson RJ<sup>3</sup>, Cunha Filho JS<sup>4</sup>, Oehninger S<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>School of Medicine- Universidad de Córdoba

<sup>2</sup>Andalusian Center of Sports Medicine –Junta de Andalucía

<sup>3</sup>Biology Department, Old Dominion University

<sup>4</sup>Insemine Centro de Reproducao Humana

<sup>5</sup>Centro Iberoamericano de Reproducción Asistida, Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine

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## METHODS · Criteria

- Exclusion criteria
  
  - Inclusion criteria
    - Not exclusion criteria
  
    - minimum practice of 2-4 hs/week
    - VO<sub>2</sub>max ≥ 40 ml/min/kg
- } PA group
- not practicing any physical activity
  - VO<sub>2</sub>max < 40 ml/min/kg
- } SE group

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## METHODS · Subjects

	Sedentary	Physically Active
Subjects	15	16
Age (years)	19.0 ± 1.8	19.2 ± 1.9
Weight (kg)	73.1 ± 8.3	73.8 ± 9.1
Height (cm)	175.9 ± 4.2	176.14 ± 5.2
Body fat (%)	15.6 ± 3.0	13.2 ± 3.5
VO <sub>2</sub> max (ml/min/kg)	36.9 ± 3.2	51.1 ± 4.9

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## RESULTS

	Sedentary	Physically Active	
% Type "a+b" Velocity	56.7 ± 4.5	60.94 ± 5.03	<i>P</i> < 0.05
% normal forms (morphology)	14.40 ± 1.15	15.54 ± 1.38	<i>P</i> < 0.05

Unpaired student T-test  
Values are Mean and Standard Deviation

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## CONCLUSION

Moderate exercise seems to benefit endocrine and sperm production processes with regards to sedentary subjects

- Regular endurance exercise
  - Catabolic and stress-related hormones (Haber et al. 1997b, Rivier & Rivest 1991, Sushh et al. 1988)
  - Anabolic hormones
- Moderate exercise favors a more anabolic state

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## What's happening?

High-load physical exercise, seems to interfere with endocrine and spermatogenic processes

Manna et al. (2004): exercise alters sperm cell lineages and antioxidant enzymes. Antioxidant administration

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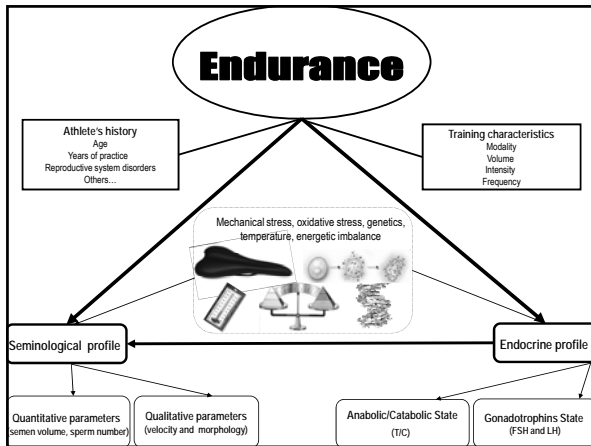
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### TAKE HOME MESSAGE AND CHALLENGES

- Moderate exercise seems to improve hormonal milieu and semen
- High-load exercise (volume/intensity) may have adverse effects
  - Key mechanism
  - How to palliate
    - Antioxidants
    - Training modification

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Many thanks...



fivresearch@yahoo.com



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Mark your calendar for the upcoming ESHRE campus workshops!

- Early pregnancy disorders: integrating clinical, immunological and epidemiological aspects  
23-26 August 2011 - Copenhagen, Denmark
- The management of infertility – training workshop for junior doctors, paramedicals and embryologists  
7-8 September 2011 - St. Petersburg, Russia
- Basic genetics for ART practitioners  
9 September 2011 - Bucharest, Romania
- The whole man  
22-23 September 2011 - Sevilla, Spain
- Accreditation of a Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Laboratory  
3-4 October 2011 - Athens, Greece
- Human reproductive tissues, gametes and embryos: Innovations by science-driven culture and preservation systems  
9 October 2011 - Cairns, Australia
- Comprehensive preimplantation screening: dynamics and ethics  
13-14 October 2011 - Maastricht, The Netherlands
- Endometriosis and IVF  
28-29 October 2011 - Rome, Italy
- Endoscopy in reproductive medicine  
23-25 November 2011 - Leuven, Belgium
- What you always wanted to know about polycystic ovary syndrome  
8-10 December 2011 - Sofia, Bulgaria

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(see "Calendar")

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