

# INFORMED CONSENT BEFORE TREATMENT

Pre-Operative Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score

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#### NEWS

#### Nadine Montgomery wins £5m from NHS Lanarkshire over brain damage to son

Landmark decision UK Supreme Court on 11 March 2015

#### Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board



When obtaining consent – consider<sup>+</sup>:

- 1) The risks a reasonable person in the patient's circumstances would want to know?
- 1) The risks *this particular* patient wants to know?
- 1) Does the patient know about reasonable alternative treatments?



*†Sokol, Update on the UK law on consent, BMJ, 2015* 

What sort of risks would a reasonable person in the patient's circumstances want to know... about rectal cancer treatment?



# 'Core information set' for consenting in cancer surgery

- Patient and Clinician involvement
- This example is for Oesophageal cancer but 'Core information Set' proposed for coloretcal cancer

Blazeby, BJS. 2015;102:936–943



# National Cancer Survivorship Initiative



A cultural shift in the approach to cancer care:

- greater focus on well-being after cancer treatment
- tailored support preparation for and early recognition of the consequences of treatment
- a new emphasis on PROMs in aftercare services.





#### Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score

Annals of Surgery • Katrine J. Emmertsen, MD,\*† and Søren Laurberg, MD\*

Five Questions:

- 1. Continence of flatus
- 2. Continence of liquid stool
- 3. Frequency of bowel habit
- 4. Clustering
- 5. Urgency







#### How does bowel function affect your quality of life?





#### **Risk Factors for Bowel Dysfunction**

- Tumour Height / Low  $\rightarrow$  intersphincteric anastomosis
- TME over PME
- Neoadjuvant therapy
- Straight anastomosis\*
- Anastomotic leakage
- Previous sphincter injury or history of incontinence
- Less than 1 year from restored continuity

#### Defunctioning ileostomy +/- time to reversal

- 1) Bryant CL, Lunniss PJ, Knowles CH, et al. Anterior resection syndrome. Lancet Oncol 2012;13:e403-8.
- 2) Emmertsen KJ, Laurberg S. Impact of bowel dysfunction on quality of life after sphincter-preserving resection for rectal cancer. BJS. 2013; 100: 1377 1387
- 3) \*Brown CJ, Fenech DS, McLeod RS. Reconstructive techniques after rectal resection for rectal cancer. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2008:CD006040.
- 4) Engel J. Quality of life in rectal cancer patients: a four-year prospective study. Ann Surg 2003;238:203-13.

#### **Considering Risk Factors For Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Impairment** (**Univariate** Ordinal Regression Analysis)



**PELICAN** cancer foundation **Considering Risk Factors For Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Impairment** (**Multivariate** Ordinal Regression Analysis)









Battersby et al, DC&R, April 2016

#### Reported **Bowel Symptoms** By Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Category.





Reported **EORTC Symptoms** By Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Category.





#### Reported EORTC Symptoms By Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Category.





#### Reported Functional Outcomes By Bowel Related Quality Of Life (BQoL) Category.

			Extent of BQoL I		
	To	tal	Score Difference	†p-value	Clinical relevance of score difference to QoL
Function	<u>al scal</u> es				
Global**	ʻ 77	(19)			
None v Mi	nor		10	<0.001	Moderate
None v Mo	ajor		22	<0.001	Large
Physical	87	(18)			
None v Mi	nor		5	<0.001	Small
None v Mo	ajor		13	<0.001	Moderate
Role**	86	(24)			
None v Mi	nor		6	0.002	Small
None v Mo	ajor		21	<0.001	Large
Emotion	85	(19)			
None v Mi	nor		7	<0.001	Small
None v Mo	ajor		18	<0.001	Moderate
Cognitiv	e 86	(18)			
None v Mi	nor		4	0.024	
None v Ma	ajor		11	<0.001	Moderate
Social**	82	(25)			
None v Mi	nor		8	<0.001	Small
None v Mo	ajor		30	<0.001	Large

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Battersby et al, DC&R, April 2016

Tied to the Toilet: Lived Experiences of Altered Bowel Function (Anterior Syndrome) After Temporary Stoma Reversal

#### **Taylor & Bradshaw**

- Qualitative study. 8 patients.
- 6 weeks post closure of stoma

"toileting habits determined their daily routine and restricted their activities"

"leaving home necessitated planning toilet stops en route and insurance of toilet availability at their destination"

"urgency and fear of faecal incontinence limited the hours they could work and they worried about work performance"

"unable to work through the day after having to get up every night to open his bowels"



J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 2013, 40(4):415-21



#### The risks *this particular* patient wants to know?

#### More individualised discussion?

# Nomogram



Pre-Operative Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score

7

Points (each variable		10	20	30	) 4	10	50	60	70	80	90	100
Age (at Surgery)	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	
Gender	м		т	ME								
TME v PME	PME			_								
Tumour Height (cm)	15	14 stom	13 12 a	2 11	10	9	8	76	5	4	3 2	1
Stoma	no stor	ma	a		VEO							
Pre-Op Radiotherapy	NO				YES							
<b>Total Points</b>	0	20	40	60	80	100	1	40	18	0	220	
LARS Score	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
	o LA	RS		Mino	or LA	ARS	-	N	lajor	LARS		



Pre-Operative Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score



http://www.pelicancancer.org/bowel-cancer-research/polars

Battersby NJ, et al. Gut 2017;0:1-9

# Scenario 1

70 year old male

Tumour Height - 13cm from Anal Verge

Plan:

- No Radiotherapy
- TME Surgery

Predicted LARS Score 20 (95% CI 19.0 – 21.2) No LARS



#### m POLARS

# **Upper Rectal Cancer**





# Scenario 2

65 year old male

Tumour Height - 4cm from Anal Verge

Plan:

- Radiotherapy (CRT)
- TME Surgery
- Defunctioning ileostomy

Predicted LARS Score 32 (95% CI 29.0 – 34.2) Major LARS



#### **m** <u>m</u> POLARS

### **Low Rectal Cancer**





### Scenario 2

65 year old male

Tumour Height - 4cm from Anal Verge

# Plan: No Radiotherapy

- Radiotherapy (CRT)
- TME Surgery

**PELICAN** cancer foundation

• Defunctioning ileostomy

Predicted LARS Score 28 (95% CI 26.5 – 31.7) Minor LARS



#### R - POLARS

### **Low Rectal Cancer**



# The purpose of POLARS

- Personalised pre-operative information. Informed consent.
- Used in conjunction with the consent aid.





# The purpose of

25-7-13

Since November 2011 J have been using Peresteen Inigation System. This has allowed me to live a

Normal site. Prior to this life was very difficult.

Peristeen

Calendar

- Personalised pre-operative ۲ information. Informed consent.
- Used in conjunction with the ۲ consent aid.
- Raising patient awareness. ۲ Seek help – investigate and treat symptoms more swiftly.



# The purpose of POLARS

- Personalised pre-operative information. Informed consent.
- Used in conjunction with the consent aid.
- Raising patient awareness.
  Seek help investigate and treat symptoms more swiftly.

Dietary Changes
THERE ARE A NUMBOR OF FOODS THAT NOW CAUSE MY STOMARY TO GAS UP AND REJUCT IN DIARMORA. GREEN VEGATABLES BAKED BOTH S ROASTED HAM. CORMIN TYPES OF APPLOS FRESH ORANGE JUICE



# The purpose of POLARS

Name of Participant	2/10/13 Date	Signature	
I am at pre:	sent in hospital 1	naving had a	colostomy bag
fitted. I will	answer the questin	onaire as ) w	ias befor the operatio



Successful LAR = intestinal continuity is restored with reasonable bowel function

# Meta-Analysis of QOL for APE Vs AR

(Cornish et al, 2007, Annals of Surgical Oncology)

OUTCOME MEASURED	COMPARISON OF AR Vs APE
General Health Score	Equivalent
Physical Function	AR better than APE
Role Function	AR better than APE
Cognitive Function	APE better than AR
Emotional Function	APE better than AR
Future Perspective	APE better than AR
Sexual Function	AR better than APE

For lower rectal tumours (<8cm from a/v) 300 LARs & 486 APEs Mean follow up: 43.9 months (APE) & 46.1 months (AR)

#### MERCURY II DATA (Peter How et al) Post-op EORTC QLQ C30 Scores (1 YEAR)

		APE (n=30)	LAR (n=32)	P value
FUNCTIONAL SCALES	Physical	90 (7-100)	87 (13-100)	0.426
	Role	91.5 (0-100)	75 (0-100)	0.185
	Emotional	87.5 (25-100)	75 (0-100)	0.306
	Cognitive	100 (33-100)	83 (0-100)	0.018
	Social	100 (0-100)	67 (0-100)	0.012
	Global QOL	79 (33-100)	71 (33-100)	0.225
SYMPTOMS	Fatigue	22 (0-56)	27.5 (0-89)	0.235
SINGLE ITEMS	Sleep Disturbance	0 (0-67)	33 (0-100)	0.013
	Appetite loss	0 (0-67)	0 (0-67)	0.936
	Diarrhoea	0 (0-67)	33 (0-100)	0.017
	Financial impact	0 (0-67)	0 (0-100)	0.087

#### National Danish Registry QoL for APE Vs AR

Unpublished work by Thyo, Emmertsen et al. ESCP Milan 2016

- EORTC QLQ C30 compared LAR (n=346) versus APE (n=1127)
- All functional domains were equivalent for both groups
- However radiotherapy sub-group
  - (LAR, n= 157 [45%] v APE, n=719 [63%])
  - global quality of life Scores 71 v 76 [p=0.002]
  - social function 78 v 85 [p=0.003] respectively).
- Irradiated patients APE group better QoL than LAR group.

# Summary



- Discuss Bowel (as well as Bladder & Sexual) Dysfunction Routinely
- Consent Tools/discussions aids -<u>http://www.pelicancancer.org/bowel-cancer-research/polars</u>
- POLARS Informed Consent with a quantified risk
  - Medicolegal role evidence based discussion
  - Research Patient selection in clinical trials
  - Influence treatment at MDT
- Aid post-operative awareness of LARS



# A careful social history is still crucial



A physician is obliged to consider more than a disease organ, more even than the whole (wo)man – they must view the (wo)man in his world.



- Harvey Cushing -

April 8, 1869 – October 7, 1939

# Support slides



# The calibration plot


## High LARS score $\simeq$ Impaired QoL





Juul et al, Colorectal Disease 2015

## Results: DK v UK

	UK	Denmark	
n	463	938	P value
LARS score mean (SD)	26.1 (11.3)	24.1 (11.6)	0.017
<b>LARS categories</b> No Minor Major	134 (29.7) 103 (22.8) 214 (47.5)	334 (35.6) 221 (23.6) 383 (40.8)	0.043
BQoL Category No Minor Major	134 (29.7) 103 (22.8) 214 (47.5)	246 (26.6) 330 (35.6) 350 (37.8)	< 0.001
EORTC QLQ-C30 Function <sup>¥</sup> , Global Physical Role Emotion Cognitive Social	mean (SD) 76.5 (18.6) 86.9 (18.2) 85.5 (24.3) 84.5 (19.3) 85.9 (17.7) 83.2 (24.2)	78.1 (21.3) 87.5 (17.1) 86.9 (24.2) 88.8 (18.1) 88.2 (17.9) 88.9 (21.0)	0.18 0.50 0.32 <0.001 0.03 <0.001

BQoL – bowel related quality of life. EORTC QLQ-C30 - Quality of Life Questionnaire – Core 30. ¥, The functional scales are graded 0 – 100 with 100 indicating optimal function.

## Results: DK v UK

	UK (Develop)	Denmark (Validate)	
n ·	463	938	P value
pT-stage			
T1, n (%)	66 (14)	75 (10)	< 0.001†
T2, n (%)	168 (37)	205 (28)	
T3, n (%)	199 (43)	436 (59)	
T4, n (%)	18 (4)	21 (3)	
missing	8	201	
pN–Stage			
Negative	306 (69)	550 (74)	< 0.001
Positive	136 (31)	191 (26)	
missing	7	197	
Defunctioning Stoma			
n, (%)	362 (80)	513 (55)	< 0.001
missing	0	0	
Surgery <sup>¥</sup>			
TME	343 (80)	555 (59)	< 0.001
PME	90 (20)	383 (41)	
missing	30	0	
Radiotherapy , n (%)			
Pre-operative	145 (32)	191 (20)	< 0.001
Post-operative	3 (0.7)	2 (0.2)	
Pre-operative Radiotherapy			
None	314 (68)	747 (80)	< 0.001
Short course	60 (13)	95 (10)	
Long course	85 (19)	96 (10)	
missing	4	0	
Chemotherapy, n (%)			
Pre-operative	88 (19)	76 (8)	< 0.001
Post-operative	301 (32.2)	62 (7)	< 0.001
*14 missing values		• •	
† Chi Square – p value by ≤	pT2 v >pT2		

## Results: Cohort comparison UK v DK

	UK (Development)	Denmark (Valida	tion)		
n	463	938	P value		
Recruitment Period	2001 – 2012	2001 - 2007			
Age at surgery					
mean (SD) years	64.9 (10.1)	63.6 (10.0)	0.026		
Time from surgery to LARS score (years)					
Mean (SD)	5.2 (2.4)	4.7 (1.7)	< 0.001		
Gender					
Males, n (%)	272 (60.3)	536 (57.1)	0.27		
Tumour Height					
mean (SD)* cm	9.0 (3.3)	10.4 (2.9)	< 0.001		
missi UK patient	s – tumours 1.4	cm lower			

## Results: Cohort comparison UK v DK



Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs): the relationship between measures of interest





Adapted from Søreide K, 2013, Frontiers in Oncology

#### Randomized Comparison of Straight and Colonic J Pouch Anastomosis After Low Anterior Resection

Olof Hallböök, M.D.,\* Lars Påhlman, M.D., Ph.D.,† Michael Krog, M.D., Ph.D.,‡ Steven D. Wexner, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.S.C.R.S.,§ and Rune Sjödahl, M.D., Ph.D.\*

From the Department of Surgery, University Hospital,\* Linköping, Sweden; the Department of Surgery, Academic Hospital,† Uppsala, Sweden; the Department of Surgery, Central Hospital,‡ Gävle, Sweden; and the Department of Colorectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Florida,§ Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



Figure 1. The patients were randomly allocated to reconstruction with either a straight or a colonic J pouch anastomosis.



**Figure 4.** The patients were asked if the bowel function adversely affected their overall well-being. The proportions (%) of the patients' ratings after 1 year are shown. The difference between the groups (straight anastomosis [dark gray], n = 47; pouch anastomosis [light gray], n = 42) was significant (p < 0.001, Wilcoxon's rank sum test).

### Low Rectal Cancer - Impaired Bowel Related Quality of Life

### Comparison of Functional Results and Quality of Life Between Intersphincteric Resection and Conventional Coloanal Anastomosis for Low Rectal Cancer

Frédéric Bretagnol, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Eric Rullier, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Christophe Laurent, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Frank Zerbib, Ph.D.,<sup>2</sup> Renaud Gontier, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Jean Saric, M.D.<sup>1</sup>







#### Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score (LARS Score)

- Do you ever have occasions when you cannot control your flatus (wind)?
- Do you ever have any accidental leakage of liquid stool?
- How often do you open your bowels?

- Do you ever have to open your bowels again within one hour of the last bowel opening?
- Do you ever have such a strong urge to open your bowels that you have to rush to the toilet?

<ul> <li>No, never</li> <li>Yes, less than once per week</li> <li>Yes, at least once per week</li> </ul>	0 4 7
<ul> <li>No, never</li> <li>Yes, less than once per week</li> <li>Yes, at least once per week</li> </ul>	0 3 3
<ul> <li>More than 7 times per day (24 hours)</li> <li>4-7 times per day (24 hours)</li> <li>1-3 times per day (24 hours)</li> <li>Less than once per day (24 hours)</li> </ul>	4 2 0 5
<ul> <li>No, never</li> <li>Yes, less than once per week</li> <li>Yes, at least once per week</li> </ul>	0 9 11
<ul> <li>No, never</li> <li>Yes, less than once per week</li> <li>Yes, at least once per week</li> </ul>	0 11 16

0-20 = **No LARS** 21-29 = **Minor LARS** 30-42 = **Major LARS** 

## EORTC QLQ-C30 (version 3)

FUNCTIONAL SCALES	SYMPTOM SCALES / ITEMS
PHYSICAL (Q1-5)	FATIGUE (Q10,12,18)
ROLE (Q6 & 7)	NAUSEA & VOMITING (Q14,15)
EMOTIONAL (Q21-24)	PAIN (Q9 & 19)
COGNITIVE (Q20 & 25)	DYSPNOEA (Q8)
SOCIAL (Q26 &27)	INSOMNIA (Q11)
OVERALL QOL (Q29,30)	APPETITE LOSS (Q13)
	CONSTIPATION (Q16)
	DIARRHOEA (Q17)
	FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES (Q28)

### Improved Survival from Rectal Cancer



PELICAN cancer foundation Quaresma et al. 40-year trends in survival, Lancet 2015

## Morbidity after LAR

- Acute morbidity to surgery, radiation & chemo
- Long-term morbidity:
  - Incisional hernia
  - Adhesions
  - Chronic pain
  - Pelvic organ dysfunction
    - Bowel
    - Bladder
    - Sexual

– Quality of life

## **Chronic pain**

Chronic pain (pelvic area or lower extremities): 31% of all patients Pain intensity: Moderate-severe in 55% Risk of pain (OR): PME 1.00 TME 1.39 APE 1.73 Significantly affecting QoL



Chronic pain in the pelvic area or lower extremities after curative rectal cancer treatment and its impact on quality of life: a population-based cross sectional study. Feddern et al, Under review with Pain

## Pelvic organ dysfunction

- Bowel dysfunction
  - Low anterior resection syndrome LARS
- Bladder dysfunction:
  - Incontinence
  - Emptying difficulties
- Sexual dysfunction
  - Male
  - Female

### **Urinary dysfunction**

### Urinary dysfunction after rectal cancer treatment is mainly caused by surgery Diritish Journal of Surgery 2008; 95: 1020–1028

M. M. Lange<sup>1</sup>, C. P. Maas<sup>2</sup>, C. A. M. Marijnen<sup>3,4</sup>, T. Wiggers<sup>5</sup>, H. J. Rutten<sup>6</sup>, E. Klein Kranenbarg<sup>1</sup> and C. J. H. van de Velde<sup>1</sup>, cooperative clinical investigators of the Dutch Total Mesorectal Excision trial

**Conclusion:** UD is a significant clinical problem after rectal cancer treatment and is not related to PRT, but rather to surgical nerve damage.

Large study (n:785) Prospective - including pre-OP data Randomised +/- RT Good quality data (response rate>80%)

## **Urinary dysfunction**

## **Incontinence:**

- Pre-OP: 16.7%
- 3 months Post-OP: 25.8% (p<0.001)
- 5 years Post-OP: 38.1% (de novo 72%)
   Incontinence aggravation: 22.6 %
- Risk factors:
  - Pre-OP incontinence (RR: 2.75)
  - Female (RR: 2.77)
- Pre-OP Radiotherapy

– Not a risk factor

## Urinary dysfunction

## **Emptying difficulties:**

- Pre-OP: 22.5 %
- 3 months Post-OP: 36.0 % (p<0.001)
- 5 years Post-OP: 30.6 %
  - Aggravation of emptying: 6%
- Risk factors:
  - Pre-OP emptying difficulties (RR =2.78)
  - Peri-operative blood loss (RR = 1.62)
- - Autonomic nerve damage (RR = 3.28)
- Pre-OP Radiotherapy
  - Not a risk factor

## **Sexual dysfunction**

## Men

- Erectile dysfunction
- Ejaculatory dysfunction
- Decreased Libido

## Women

- Dryness of vagina
- Dyspareunia
- Impaired ability to reach orgasm
- Decreased libido

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M. M. Lange<sup>1</sup>, C. P. Maas<sup>2</sup>, C. A. M. Marijnen<sup>3,4</sup>, T. Wiggers<sup>5</sup>, H. J. Rutten<sup>6</sup>, E. Klein Kranenbarg<sup>1</sup> and C. J. H. van de Velde<sup>1</sup>, cooperative clinical investigators of the Dutch Total Mesorectal Excision trial

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  - Not a risk factor

## **Sexual Dysfunction?**

## Urinary and sexual dysfunction after rectal cancer treatment

#### Marilyne M. Lange and Cornelis J. H. van de Velde

### NATURE REVIEWS | UROLOGY

VOLUME 8 | JANUARY 2011



Radiation Oncology

#### Short- and long-term quality of life – EXPERT –C trial



Sclafani F et al, 2015



### **Course of the Autonomic Nerves at the Pelvic Side Wall**



## Urinary and sexual dysfunction after rectal cancer treatment

#### Marilyne M. Lange and Cornelis J. H. van de Velde

### NATURE REVIEWS | UROLOGY

#### VOLUME 8 | JANUARY 2011



Health-related quality of life 14 years after preoperative short-term radiotherapy and total mesorectal excision for rectal cancer: Report of a multicenter randomised trial  $\stackrel{\sim}{\approx}$  European Journal of Cancer (2014) **50**, 2390–2398

Lisette M. Wiltink<sup>a</sup>, Tina Y.T. Chen<sup>d</sup>, Remi A. Nout<sup>a</sup>, Elma Meershoek-Klein Kranenbarg<sup>b</sup>, Marta Fiocco<sup>c</sup>, Søren Laurberg<sup>d</sup>, Cornelis J.H. van de Velde<sup>b</sup>, Corrie A.M. Marijnen<sup>a,\*</sup>





#### Sexual function in females after radiotherapy for rectal cancer

Acta Oncologica, 2010; 49: 826-832

KJERSTI BRUHEIM<sup>1</sup>, KJELL MAGNE TVEIT <sup>1,2</sup>, EVA SKOVLUND<sup>3</sup>, LISE BALTESKARD<sup>4,5</sup>, ERIK CARLSEN<sup>6</sup>, SOPHIE D. FOSSÅ<sup>2,7</sup> & MARIANNE G. GUREN<sup>1</sup>

Table IV. Odds ratio (OR) of sexual dysfunction and vaginal problems in RT+ patients compared to RT- patients, adjusted for age and the presence of stoma.

	RT+	RT-	OR	р	CI
Sexual interest (1)	44/15	78/24	1.2	0.5	0.5–2.8
Lack of lubrication (2)	10/10	8/26	3.5	0.04	1.03-12.1
Dyspareunia (2)	7/13	4/32	4.5	0.04	1.1 - 18.6
Reduced vaginal	7/13	2/32	8.9	0.01	1.6-50.3
dimension (2)					
Able to complete	7/11	5/21	2.3	0.26	0.5–9.5
intercourse (3) Reach orgasm (3)	9/10	9/23	2.5	0.1	0.7-8.8

#### SEXUAL FUNCTION IN MALES AFTER RADIOTHERAPY FOR RECTAL CANCER

Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys., Vol. 76, No. 4, pp. 1012–1017, 2010 KJERSTI BRUHEIM, M.D.,\* MARIANNE G. GUREN, M.D., PH.D.,\* ALV A. DAHL, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>†‡</sup> EVA SKOVLUND, PH.D.,<sup>§</sup> LISE BALTESKARD, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>¶</sup> ERIK CARLSEN, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>∥</sup> SOPHIE D. FOSSÅ, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>†‡</sup> AND KJELL MAGNE TVEIT, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>\*‡</sup>

Domain (valid		RT+ group	RT- group	
<u>RT–)</u>	Range	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	$p^*$
Sexual desire (n = 104/130)	2–10	5.0 (2.0)	5.4 (2.0)	0.23
Erectile function $(n - 100/125)$	1–30	6.9 (7.9)	14.3 (11.1)	< 0.001
$\begin{array}{l} (n = 100/123) \\ \text{Orgasmic} \\ \text{function} \\ (n = 103/128) \end{array}$	0–10	2.9 (3.8)	5.2 (4.3)	<0.001
(n = 103/120) Intercourse satisfaction $(n = 32/65)^{\dagger}$	0–15	7.6 (3.5)	10.1 (2.8)	0.001
Overall satisfaction with sex life (n = 96/120)	2–10	4.3 (2.2)	5.7 (2.6)	<0.001

Table 2. International Index of Erectile Function Scores in irradiated (RT+) and nonirradiated (RT–) patients

# Urinary and sexual dysfunction after rectal cancer treatment NATURE REVIEWS | UROLOGY



## Incontinence:

Sympathetic damage:

Detrusor hyperactivity and/or Urgs

• Parasympathetic damage:

Detrusor strength and impaired bladder sensation Overflow

• Anatomical changes:

Impaired support and strength in the pelvic floor Stress

## **Emptying difficulties:**

• Parasympathetic damage:

Diminished detrusor strength and impaired sensation

- Transient (<6 months): Partial damage and regeneration</li>
- Permanent (>12 months): Transection of nerves
- Anatomical changes:

Impaired support

### Neurological damage:

- Sympathetic nervous system
- Parasympathetic nervous system
- Mixed sympathetic/parasympathetic nervous system

### **Sexual and urinary dysfunction after proctectomy for rectal cancer** C. Eveno<sup>a</sup>, A. Lamblin<sup>b</sup>, C. Mariette<sup>b</sup>, M. Pocard<sup>a</sup>



**Figure 1.** Autonomic nervous system: pelvic nerves and plexus. 1. Rectum. 2. Bladder. 3. Prostate. 4. Preaortic plexus. 5. Hypogastric nerves. 6. Lateral pelvic plexus. 7. Branches of parasympathetic anterior roots S2, S3 and S4.

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### **Sympathetic damage:** Point of damage:

- Superior hypogastric plexus
- Hypogastric nerve

**Consequence:** 

- Normal erection
- Retrograde/no ejaculation
- Dryness of the vagina

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### **Parasympathetic damage:** Point of damage:

• Pelvic nerves (nervi erigenti)

**Consequence:** 

- Impotence
- Normal ejaculation
- Dryness in vagina
- Dyspareunia

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### **Mixed damage:** Point of damage:

• Inferior hypogastric plexus

**Consequence:** 

- Impotence
- Dyspareunia
- Impaired ability to reach orgasm