SAND abstract No. 110 from the BEACH program 2006–07

Subject: Erectile dysfunction

Organisation supporting this study: Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd

Issues: Prevalence of erectile dysfunction (ED) in general practice patients/their partners (18+ years); sources of advice utilised by patients/partners experiencing ED; remedies tried as management of ED; effectiveness of the remedies tried.

Sample: 1,930 patient encounters from 82 GPs; data collection period: 20/02/2007 – 26/03/2007.

Method: Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method 2006–07' on this website: <http://www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm>. Participating GPs were provided with a card that contained information about ED and a clinical definition.

Summary of results

Females were over-represented in this sample (65.0%) of adults when compared with all BEACH encounters with adults in 2005–06 (60.1%). The age distribution within adults paralleled that of patients at all BEACH encounters.

There were 1,930 patients aged 18 years and older, who responded to one or more questions. Of these, almost two-thirds (63.2%; n=1,219) were currently sexually active, 31.9% (n=615) were not, and 5.0% had never been sexually active. Patients aged 25 to 44 years were the most likely to be sexually active (82.7%, 95% CI: 77.4–88.0) and the proportion decreased with age to 11.6% (95% CI: 7.0–16.3) among patients aged 75 years or more. The proportion of patients who were either currently or previously sexually active was similar in males (94.5%) and females (95.4%).

Of the 1,834 (95.1%) patients who were currently/previously sexually active, 160 (8.7%) did not respond to the questions about their/their partner's experience of ED. Of the 1,674 respondents, 20.3% (95% CI: 17.0–23.6, n=340) stated that they/their partner had experienced ED. A significantly smaller proportion of female patients (16.2%, 95% CI: 12.7–19.7) reported their partner's having ED than male patients (27.5%, 95% CI: 22.6–32.4) reported having ED. The proportion of patients experiencing ED increased significantly with age from 2.3% among patients aged 18-24 years, to 35.5% among patients aged 65 years and over.

Of the 340 respondents who had experienced ED themselves or in their partner, 333 reported frequency of ED. Of these, 39.9% experienced ED on 1–25% of occasions, 22.5% on 26–50% of occasions, and the remainder (37.5%) on 51% or more of occasions.

Almost half (n=158) of the 332 respondents to the question on help seeking had sought help for ED: 44.3% (n=147) from the GP and 6.0% from another health professional.

Of the 145 respondents who had sought help from their GP and who responded to the question about initiation of help, 72.4% stated that they/their partner initiated the discussion about ED, 21.4% indicated that their/their partner's GP raised this topic, and the remainder (6.2%) did not know/could not remember who initiated it.

Of the 340 patients/partners who had experienced ED, 210 responded to the question about remedies for ED (multiple responses allowed). Of these, 60% had tried at least one of the listed remedies. The most common remedy was prescribed medications (84.1%, n=106), followed by behavioural treatment (10.3%) and over-the-counter products (7.1%).

Correspondence to: Salma Fahridin, AGPSCC

AIHW Australian GP Statistics and Classification Centre, 2007. SAND abstract No. 110 from the BEACH program: Erectile dysfunction. Sydney: AGPSCC University of Sydney. ISSN 1444-9072

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION - ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION.**

You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

The **next 30 forms** are for the **next 30 PATIENTS in the order in which the patients are seen.** However, the questions at the bottom are **only for those among the 30 who are aged 18 years or older.** If the patient is younger than 18 years please complete the top section and leave the shaded section blank. Please **DO NOT select patients** to suit the topic being investigated.

IMPORTANT!! - Please read the laminated card in your pack before commencing this section

***Clinical definition:** Erectile Dysfunction (ED) is defined as the persistent inability to obtain or maintain sufficient rigidity of the penis to allow satisfactory sexual performance.[1,2] *For the purposes of this study, ED does not include premature ejaculation.*

1. Tharyan P, Gopalakrishanan G. Erectile Dysfunction. Clin Evid. 2006 Jun;(15):1227-51.
2. Holden CA, Jolley DJ, McLachlan RI, Pitts M, Cumming R, Wittert G, Handlesman DJ, de Krester DM. Men in Australia Telephone Survey (MATeS): predictors of men's help-seeking behaviour for reproductive health disorders. MJA 2006 16 Oct; 185(8):418-22.

Only ask these questions if the patient is over 18 yrs of age

Sexual activity status
Please ask the patient if they are sexually active.

If the patient has **never** been sexually active you should **end the questions here** for this patient.

Erectile dysfunction
Please ask the patient whether they or their current partner have **experienced erectile dysfunction** (as defined in the box on the right).

If '**no**' you should **end the questions here**.

If '**yes**', please ask the patient **how often** they have had this problem.

Help / advice sought
Please ask the patient whether they or their partner have **sought help and/or advice** about this problem.

If '**yes**' please use the tick boxes to advise **where** help and/or advice was sought. Tick as many options as apply.

Initiation of help

Where help was sought from/provided by the GP, please advise whether the **initial discussion** was raised by the patient or the GP.

Remedies and their effectiveness

Please ask the patient what **remedies** they/ their partner have tried in an attempt to solve the ED problem.

Beside each option, please use the tick boxes to advise whether the patient considered the therapy to be **effective** in resolvinging this problem.

NB. 'Script from Dr' = a prescribed medication specifically for treating ED, or any other prescribed medication being used in this instance to treat ED.

For patients **18yrs and over**:

Is this patient sexually active?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not at present
- ☐ Never → end questions

BL90C

Has this patient/patient's partner experienced erectile dysfunction* ?

- ☐ No → end questions
- ☐ Yes - on:
  - ☐ 1-25% of occasions
  - ☐ 26-50% of occasions
  - ☐ 51-75% of occasions
  - ☐ 76-100% of occasions

Has the patient/ patient's partner sought help/ advice for this problem? *(tick all that apply)*

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes - from:
  - ☐ Partner
  - ☐ Relative
  - ☐ Friend
  - ☐ Internet
  - ☐ Other _____ *(Please specify)*
  - ☐ Pharmacist
  - ☐ GP
  - ☐ Counsellor
  - ☐ Other health professional _____ *(Please specify)*

If help was sought from / provided by the GP the topic was initially raised by:

- ☐ The GP
- ☐ The patient
- ☐ Don't know / can't remember

Remedies tried were: *(tick all that apply)*

	Effective? Yes	No
☐ None		
☐ Script from Dr (Viagra/cialis/levitra/caverject/ other prescribed med'n)	☐	☐
☐ OTC products	☐	☐
☐ Behavioural	☐	☐
☐ Alcohol	☐	☐
☐ Herbal remedy	☐	☐
☐ Nasal spray	☐	☐
☐ Medication from another source (eg internet)	☐	☐