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# Approach to Urinary Retention and Priapism



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# ACUTE URINARY RETENTION

- Painful
- Inability to pass urine
- Palpable or percussible bladder



Abrams B, Cadozo L, Fall M et al 2003 The standardisation of terminology in lower urinary tract function: report from the standardisation sub-committee of the International Continence Society. *Urology* Jan;61(1):37-49. doi: 10.1016/s0090-4295(02)02243-4

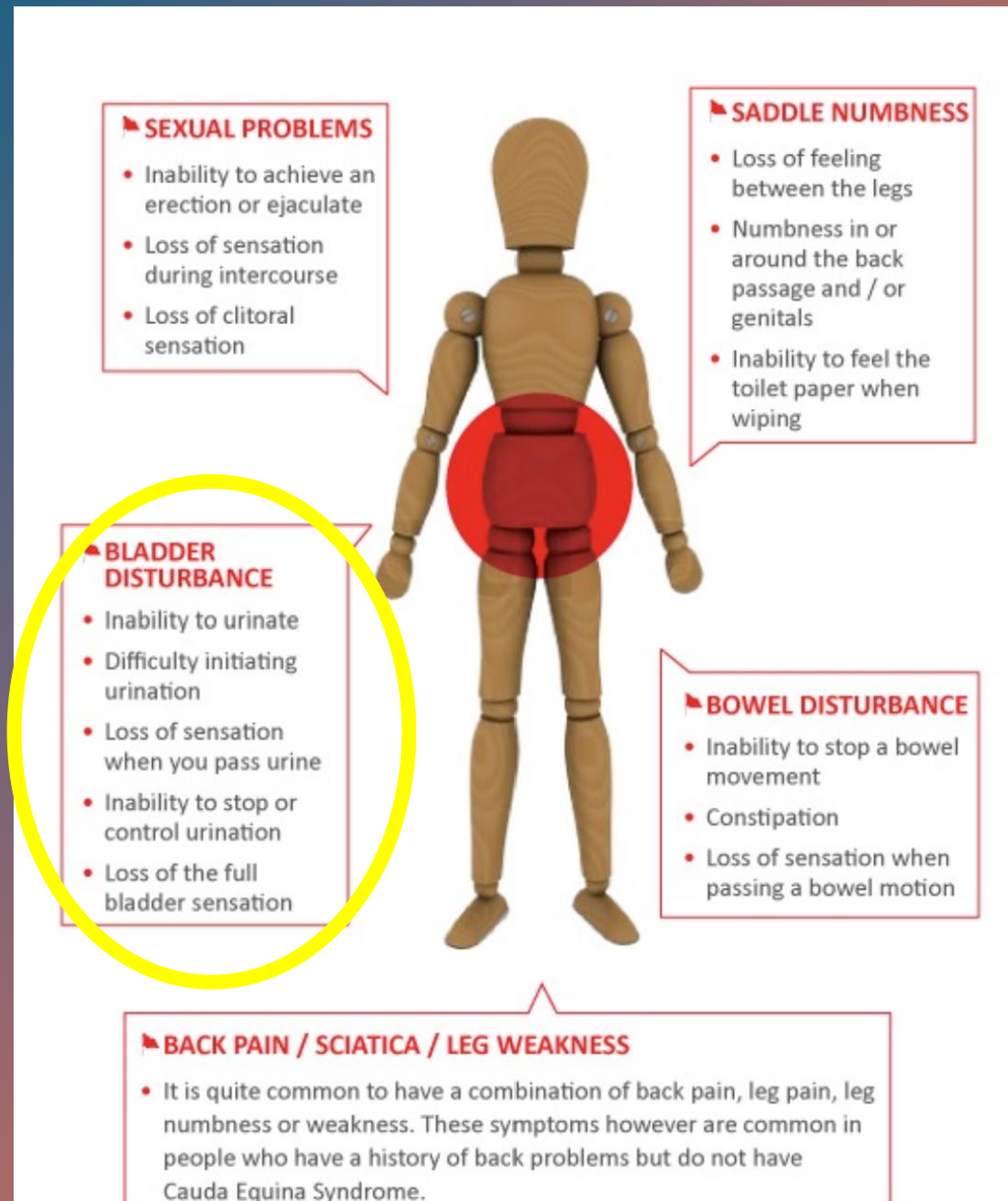
\*risks in men versus women

# ACUTE URINARY RETENTION

OBSTRUCTIVE ANATOMICAL	OBSTRUCTIVE LUMINAL	FUNCTIONAL	NEUROLOGICAL
BPH Masses Stenosis Pregnancy	Clot Stone	Cystitis Drugs e.g. Anticholinergics Anaesthesia Constipation	Spinal cord Compression- Cauda Equina Syndrome, disc prolapse, Tumour Stroke Multiple sclerosis
TRAUMA	TRAUMA	TRAUMA	TRAUMA

# Cauda Equina

- Quick review



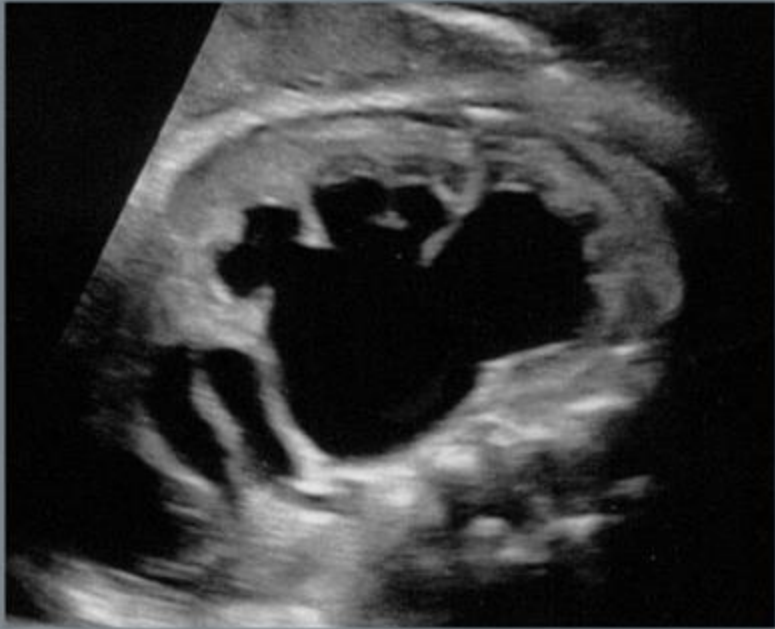
# When to catheterise?

**AIM = to protect the kidneys**

- No specific volume – varies between people
- Pain
- Overflow with high post void residual

*\* infection risk*

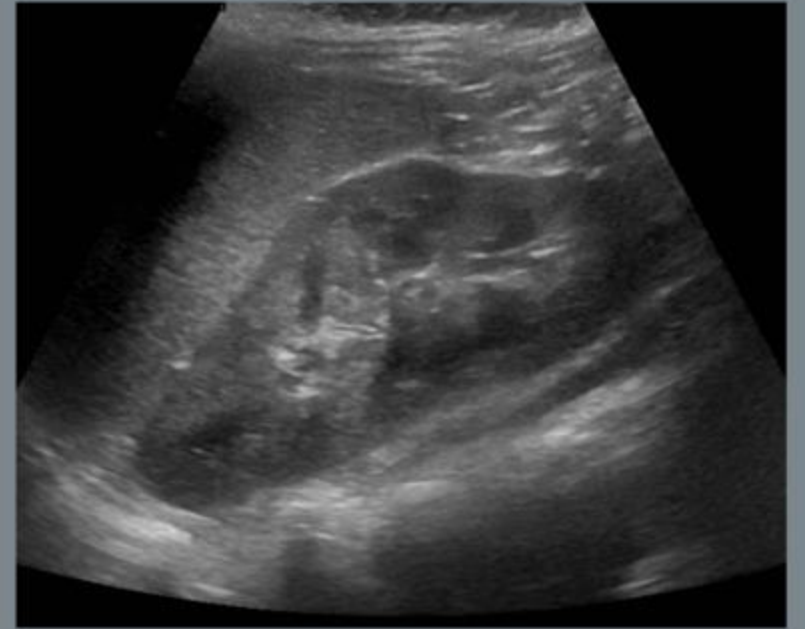
# Effects of obstruction



Grade 3 Hydronephrosis  
with Ureteral Dilation



Grade 1 Dilation



Normal Kidney



# What are the most common mistakes you see during IDC insertion?

- *Tips and Tricks from a Urologist*

- Lubrication +++ (hold it in place)
- Tension on penis at 90 degrees
- Advance all the way to the Y
- Use a **larger size** for BPH
- If these don't work then → suprapubic

# Investigations

- **Must perform DRE!**
  - If suspected cancer then get PSA immediately
- Urine for MC&S
- CBC
- Renal Function Test



# Investigations

- **Ultrasound KUB** (Kidney-Ureter-Bladder)
  - Concern for persistent obstruction
  - *E.g. no improvement of renal impairment post catheterisation*
- Neurological / Trauma cause
  - **CT spinal**
  - Especially if bony mets from e.g. prostate cancer

# Which patients need to be admitted?

- **Chronic urinary retention**
- **Acute renal impairment**
- **Post-Obstructive diuresis**
  - >200 ml/hour for 2 hours
  - Monitor for electrolyte loss = especially **hyponatraemia**
  - Fluid maintenance +/- hypertonic saline

# When do you remove the catheter?

- Trial of removal / void
- In clinic
- No specific timeframe – patient dependent
  - *After imaging, RFT improving ...*

# Do you routinely use medications in patients with BPH to decrease risk of retention?

**No rush!**

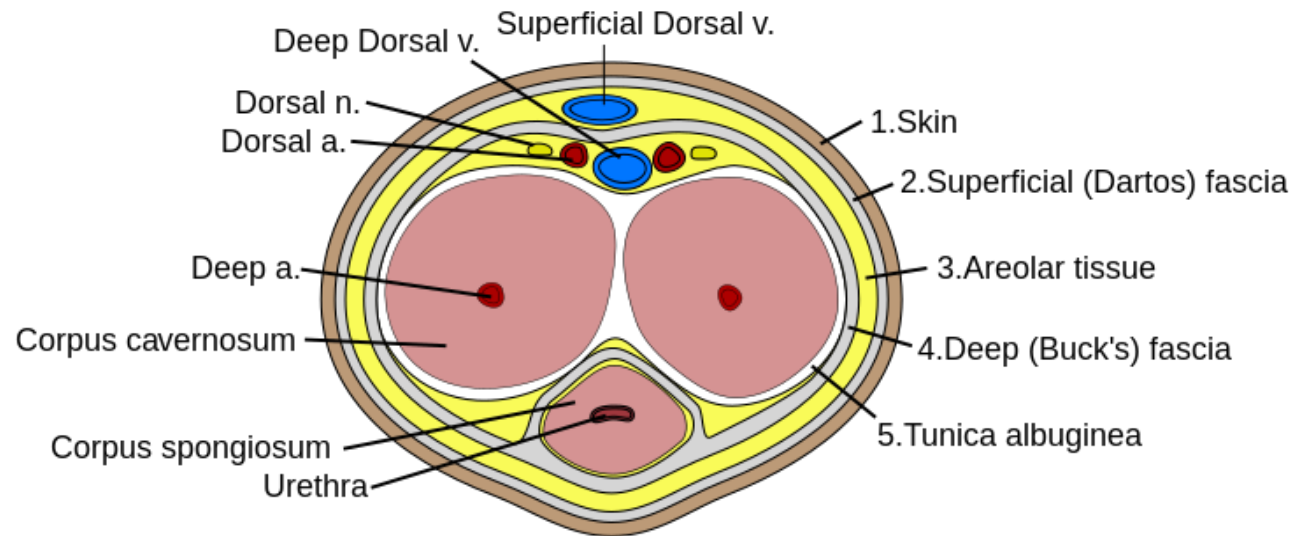
Can be managed in outpatients

E.g. Alpha blockers

No role for prophylactic antibiotics

# PRIAPISM

PAINFUL + SUSTAINED (4h) + UNWANTED  
ERECTION *\*with or without orgasm*



# PRIAPISM

## TIME IS TISSUE

4h reversible

24h 90% irreversible

48h 100% irreversible



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# PRIAPISM

## TIME IS TISSUE

### Erectile dysfunction

### Impotence

Pt with sickle cell disease had oedematous painful erection for 8 days before presenting



# Types of Priapism

EMERGENCY	NON-EMERGENCY
LOW-FLOW ISCHAEMIC	HIGH-FLOW NON-ISCHAEMIC

# PRIAPISM

## NON-ISCHAEMIC (HIGH FLOW)

**Uncommon (2%)**

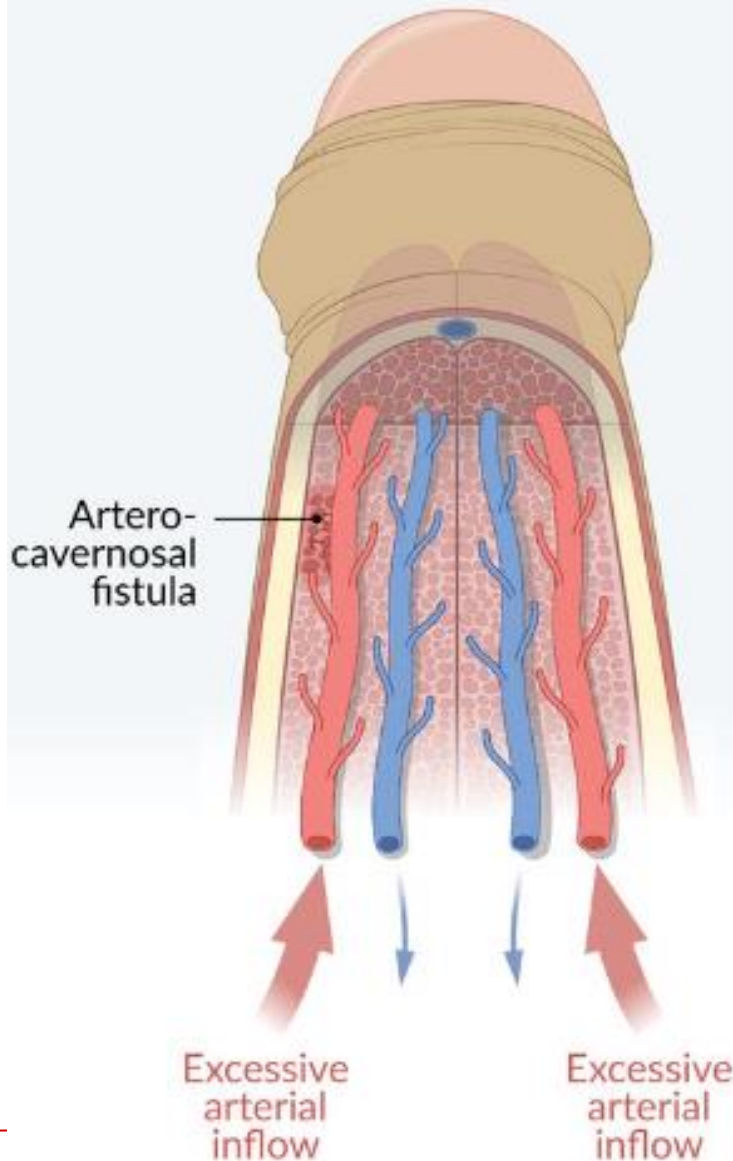
**Not painful**

Usually in context of trauma

Or

Post treatment for low flow priapism

*O<sub>2</sub> is still  
getting into  
the tissue*



# PRIAPISM

## ISCHAEMIC (LOW FLOW)

**Sickle cell disease**

**Idiopathic**

**Drugs**

- Intracavernosal Injections
- Antihypertensives eg hydralazine
- Anticonvulsants e.g. Na Valproate
- Antipsychotics
- Alpha blockers eg prazosin
- Anticoagulants e.g. warfarin
- Recreational drugs (cocaine, marijuana)

**Haematological cancers**

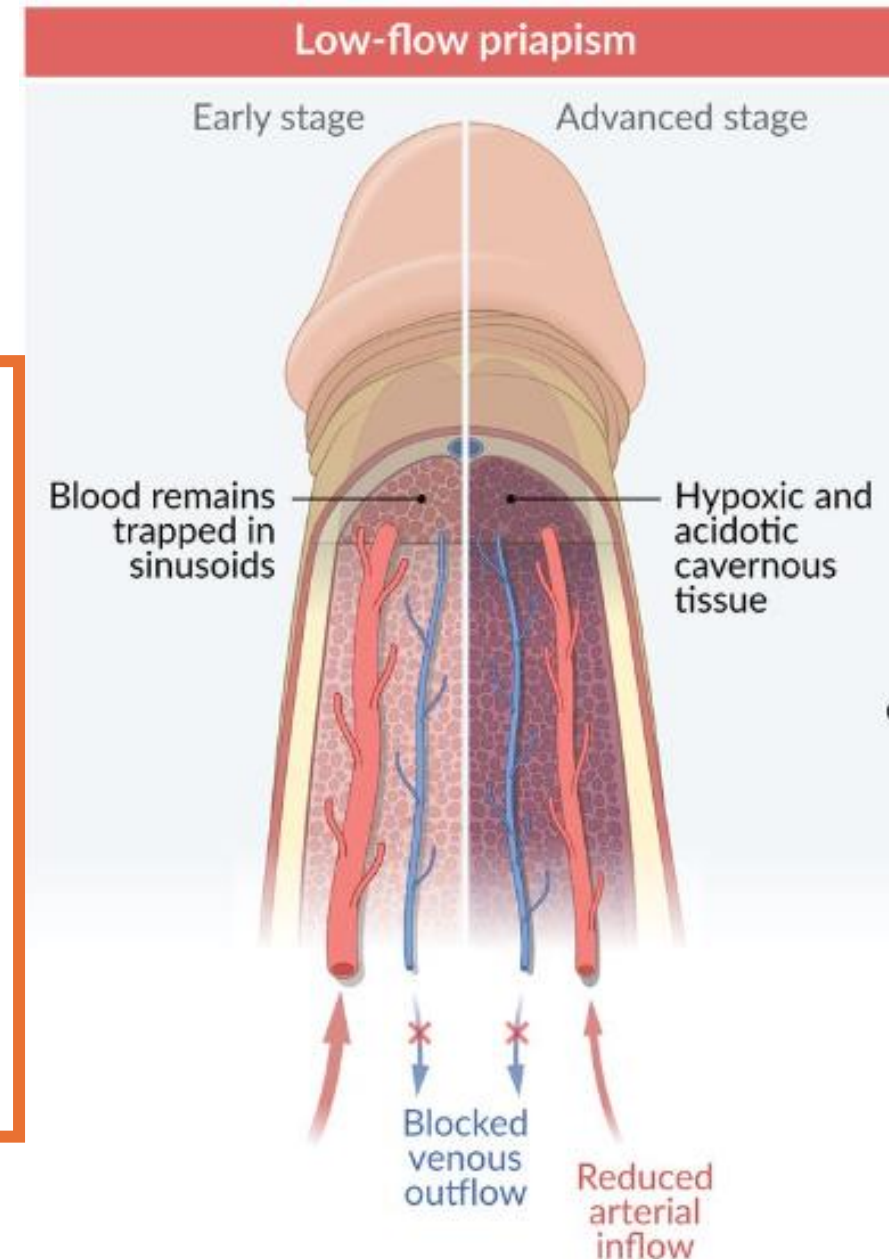
**Spinal cord injury**

Painful

Tense / tumescent  
cavernosum

Trapped blood

Less likely to have a  
soft glans



# Priapism and Sickle Cell Disease

33% adults (often recurrent)  
3% children

Epidemiology and treatment of  
priapism in sickle cell disease

*Hematology Am Soc Hematol  
Educ Program* (2022) 2022 (1):  
450–458.

<https://doi.org/10.1182/hematology.2022000380>

## Rate of erectile dysfunction

- 2.5x normal population
- 5x higher than patients with priapism

- **NEED TO EDUCATE your SCD patients to prevent complications**

Priapism is associated with a high rate of unrecognized mental health challenges, including suicidality, depression, and anxiety.



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Target = DE-TUMESCENCE

*Educate*

Aspirate

Aspirate

Irrigate - Saline

Infiltrate – medications

Operate

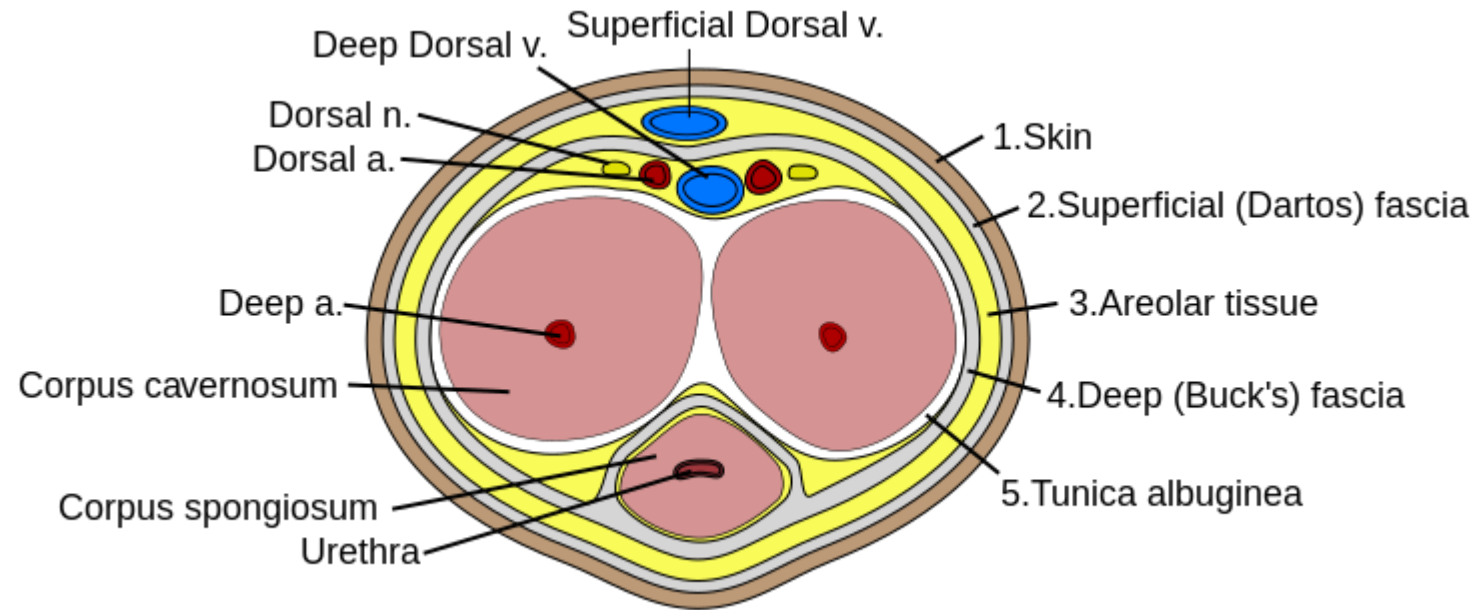


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# ASPIRATE

## 1. Dorsal Penile Nerve block





# ASPIRATE

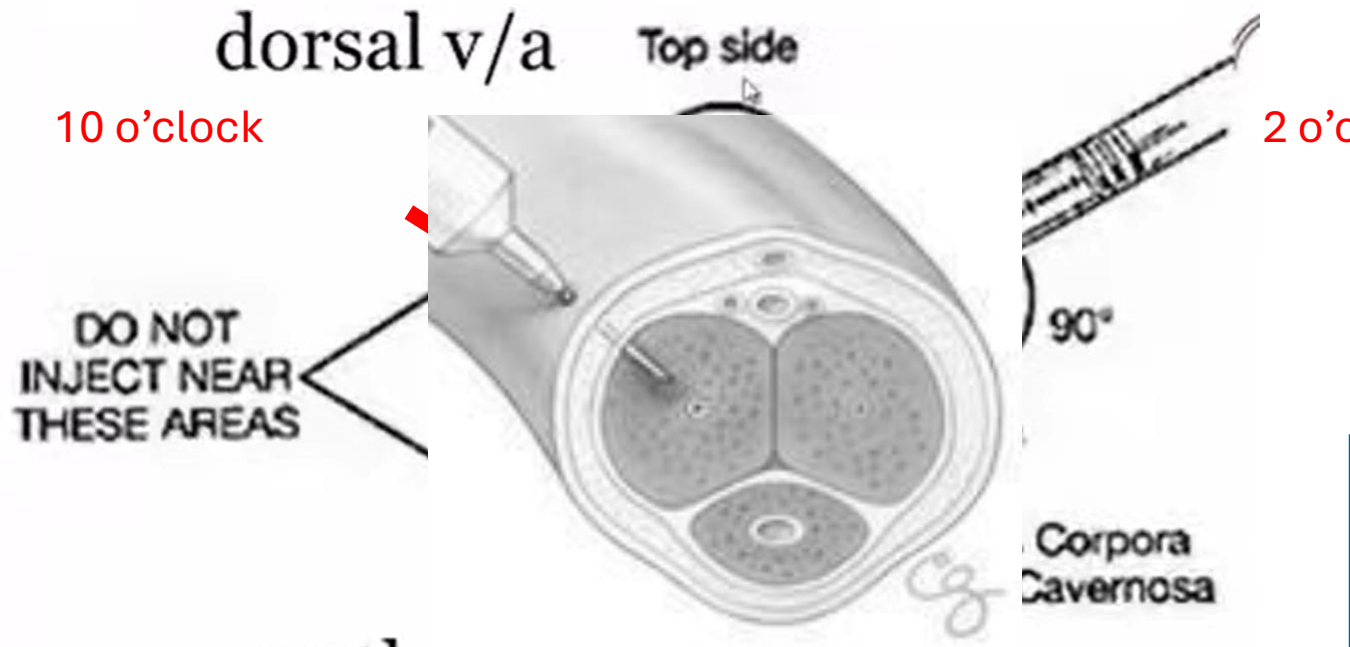
1. Dorsal Penile Nerve block

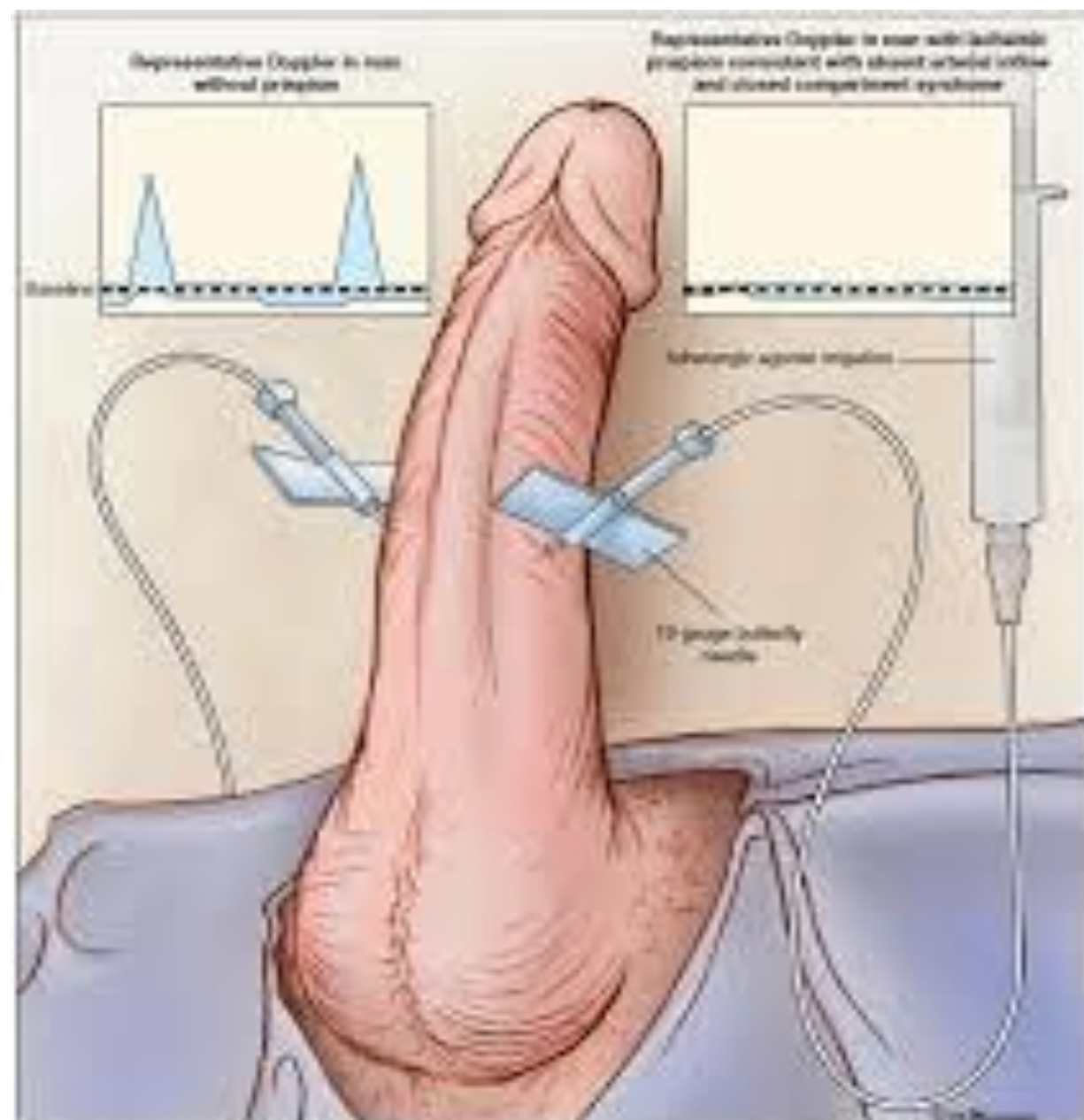




# ASPIRATE – 2 attempts

## 2. Dorsal cavernosum aspiration 10 and 2 o'clock





**Figure 1** Intraoperative assessment of popliteal venous anastomosis in a rat model. The diagram shows a rat's hind limb with a surgical incision exposing the popliteal vein. A Doppler probe is positioned over the vein, and a catheter is inserted into the vein. The diagram is divided into two panels: "Representative Doppler in rat without popliteal anastomosis" and "Representative Doppler in rat with popliteal anastomosis consistent with absent arterial inflow and closed compartment syndrome". The first panel shows a normal Doppler waveform with a clear systolic peak. The second panel shows a flat Doppler waveform, indicating no flow. Labels include "Doppler probe", "Catheter", "Popliteal vein", "Surgical incision", and "Popliteal artery anastomosis".

# IRRIGATE

Flush with 10-20ml normal saline

Either side

Attempt to loosen clots

Then aspirate

***Squeeze the penis until you see fresh blood***

# INFILTRATE

## Phenylephrine –

Mechanism of Action:  *$\alpha$ 1-adrenoceptor agonist*  
= Vasoconstriction

**MUST DILUTE:** 10mg/ml into 100ml = **100mcg/ml**



**Inject 1ml every 5-10 min maximum 5 times**

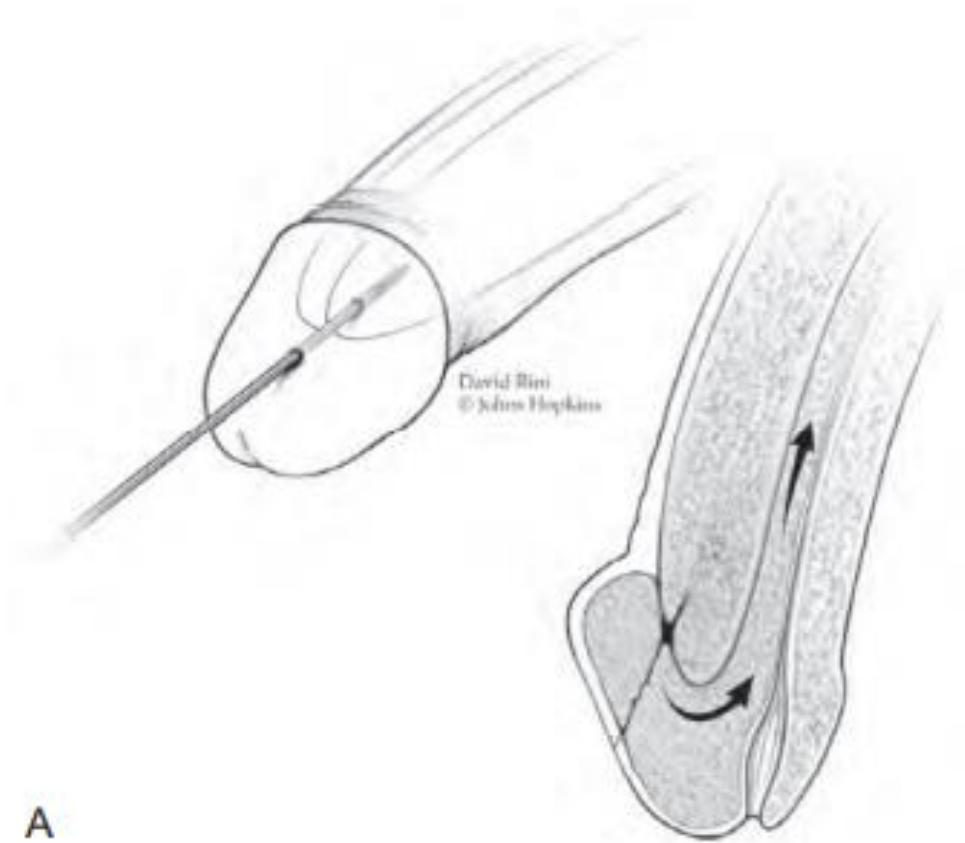
# SURGICAL MANAGEMENT

## Urological review

- Re-establish corporal flow
- Proximal or distal **SHUNTS**

## Longer term

- Address erectile dysfunction
- Penile **IMPLANTS**



# ***SUMMARY***



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# URINARY RETENTION

It's not always BPH!

Think

- **Obstructive** – anatomical
- **Obstructive** – luminal
- **Functional** – drugs and infection
- **Neurological**

## *Tips and Tricks from a Urologist*

Lubrication +++ (hold it in place)

Tension on penis at 90 degrees

Advance all the way to the Y

Use a **larger size** for BPH

If these don't work then → suprapubic



# PRIAPISM

*Educate*

Aspirate

Aspirate

Irrigate - Saline

Infiltrate – phenylephrine

Operate



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# The end

