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INVITED EDITORIAL

Prosthetic urology: past, present, and future

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The global population is collectively getting older, and age is directly correlated with erectile dysfunction (ED). With the advent of effective oral agents and wide availability of the Internet, a larger portion of the population is becoming aware of the different treatment options for men with ED. The penile prosthesis is a definitive and effective treatment for ED which has been available for just over half a century.

Besides age, in industrial societies, we are witnessing an upsurge in comorbidities and side effects from medications that contribute to ED. We are all familiar with the components of the metabolic syndrome (diabetes, hypertension, obesity, dyslipidemia, and cardiovascular disease) and the deleterious effects of smoking and pelvic surgeries.

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The prosthesis market is growing. With increasing volume of implanted prostheses in a sicker population comes increasing complexity. As surgeons, we, at times, push the boundaries of modern medicine to improve our patients' quality of life. Ultimately, optimal patient care begins before the patient encounter and is carried throughout the postoperative course. To produce an edition dedicated solely to prosthetic urology has been an honor and a pleasure.

We have assembled a collection of experts from around the world to contribute on topics old and new. We attempt to take the next step in the age-old fight against infections while taking on a new foe in the opioid epidemic. We attempt to individualize a patient's care while remembering that 10 000 h of repetition ultimately lead to expertise and improved outcomes; within this delicate balance lies both the challenge and the excitement of this field.

The goal of this edition is to serve as a reference material for difficult-to-manage

situations. We begin with foundational knowledge on prosthetics and the precise engineering that is required for the production of these devices. We then move to specific situations that are difficult due to: patient, surgeon, or surgical factors. Finally, we look to the future and try to predict what the next generation of prosthetics will offer.

We hope you enjoy this special issue of the *Asian Journal of Andrology*, "Prosthetic urology: past, present, and future." May it further stimulate, and provide the basis for, more research that leads to the development of even better options.

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