

The Cost of Treating Erectile Dysfunction

By [Tara Parker-Pope](#)

Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times Dr. Andrew McCullough is an associate professor of urology and director of Male Sexual Health and Fertility at the Langone Medical Center at New York University.

Recently a reader complained to me that she and her husband no longer have sex. It wasn't that they didn't care about each other. They simply couldn't afford it.

The problem was that her husband suffered from erectile dysfunction, or E.D., a problem that afflicts about a third of men in their 50s and half of men in their 60s. And for couples on a limited budget, the cost of drugs like Viagra, at about \$15 a pill, can be prohibitive to use on a regular basis.

Medicare and many insurance plans don't cover the cost of E.D. drugs. But as Lesley Alderman explains in today's Patient Money, there are a range of options for treating erectile dysfunction, including pumps, injections and surgical implants. Many of them are covered by insurance.

To learn more, read the full story, "[Viagra and Its ilk Aren't the Only Treatments Around](#)," and then please join the discussion below. Have you found success with any of these treatments? Is the cost of treating E.D. taking a toll on your sex life?

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/28/the-cost-of-treating-erectile-dysfunction/?hp>