

Stop a wobble in your love life

By Catherine Hood 16/05/2010

ISSUE OF THE WEEK

One in every 100 men are thought to suffer from Peyronie's Disease, a condition that can cause a bend in the penis.

Yet surprisingly this condition often goes undetected with few sufferers contacting their GPs...

What to look for A HARD lump on the shaft of the penis is the first tell-tale sign of Peyronie's Disease This area of inflammation then hardens causing a "plaque" of scar tissue under the skin.

This doesn't behave the same way as healthy tissue and causes the penis to bend when it becomes erect.

Usually this "plaque" is on the upper side of the penis so it bends upwards. But sometimes it's on the underside so it bends down. However, it can also cause the penis to bend at a variety of different angles.

Peyronie's can cause erections to be painful and sometimes it can be physically impossible to have full penetrative sex Many sufferers say their penis buckles during sex. Other men become impotent as a result of their symptoms.

Who gets it ANY man can get Peyronie's but it's more common among men in their forties and fifties.

A prior injury to the penis can also cause the condition to flare up.

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One in four sufferers also have a claw-like condition of the hand known as Dupuytren's contracture.

Sometimes Peyronie's Disease runs in families, although this isn't always the case.

There is also a possible link to high-blood pressure and diabetes.

Studies have also found that smokers are more at risk.

Treatment THE aim of treatment is to preserve a man's sex life for as long as possible.

Mild Peyronie's may not require treatment and often the condition may go away after a few months.

If it persists then tablets and injections may be prescribed. Surgery is the last resort.

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