

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

BU School of Medicine News: Press Releases

1990-04-02

Boston University School of Medicine news: April 2, 1990

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/28406>

"Downloaded from OpenBU. Boston University's institutional repository."



Boston University School of Medicine

Office of Media Relations
Betty Russell, Director
720 Harrison Avenue
Suite 909
Boston, MA 02118-2393
617 638-8491

NEWS

For Immediate Release
April 2, 1990

Contact: Betty Russell
(617) 638-8491

NEW BOOK ON IMPOTENCE SEPARATES FACT FROM FICTION

Boston, Mass.--Unlike many medical conditions, impotence is rarely discussed. As a result, myths about impotence abound, and some of those myths may prevent thousands of men from seeking medical attention to restore their potency.

Those damaging myths include:

- impotence is most often a psychological condition
- there is little that can be done to help impotent men
- impotence primarily affects the elderly

The reality of impotence is quite different from the bleak picture portrayed by those myths. In his new book, The Potent Male; Facts, Fiction and Future, Irwin Goldstein, M.D., an associate professor of urology at Boston University School of Medicine and the co-director of the Male Reproductive Center at the University Hospital, helps impotent men and their families understand this condition and details the various treatments available.

In The Potent Male, Goldstein explains that impotence--the inability to achieve or maintain an erection--is a significant problem that affects an estimated 10 to 15 million American men.

Though once considered a psychological condition, physicians now attribute 90 percent of impotence cases to physiological reasons related to vascular disease, injury and aging. In fact, some of the same risk factors that damage blood vessels in the heart--such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking--also damage blood vessels in the penis. "The finding that impotence is a circulation or vascular problem helps explain why it is so common and has allowed us to find ways to treat the condition," says Goldstein.

A better understanding of the causes of impotence has resulted in new discoveries in the diagnosis and treatment of the condition. Today, impotent men can expect to be treated much like a patient with any other medical condition. Diagnostic procedures can be used to determine a specific cause of the impotence so that an appropriate treatment plan can be initiated. "We can offer hope to most men," says Goldstein. "We are able to restore potency in almost all cases." Treatment options include injection therapy, vacuum devices, vascular surgery and penile implants.

Though common among the elderly, Goldstein says one of his concerns is the growing number of young men that become impotent as a result of injuries, such as bicycle injuries. "Reconstructive vascular surgery is often successful in these cases," says Goldstein. "We are able to restore many of these young men to normal, natural functioning."

The Potent Male is published by The Body Press, a division of Price Stern and Sloan.