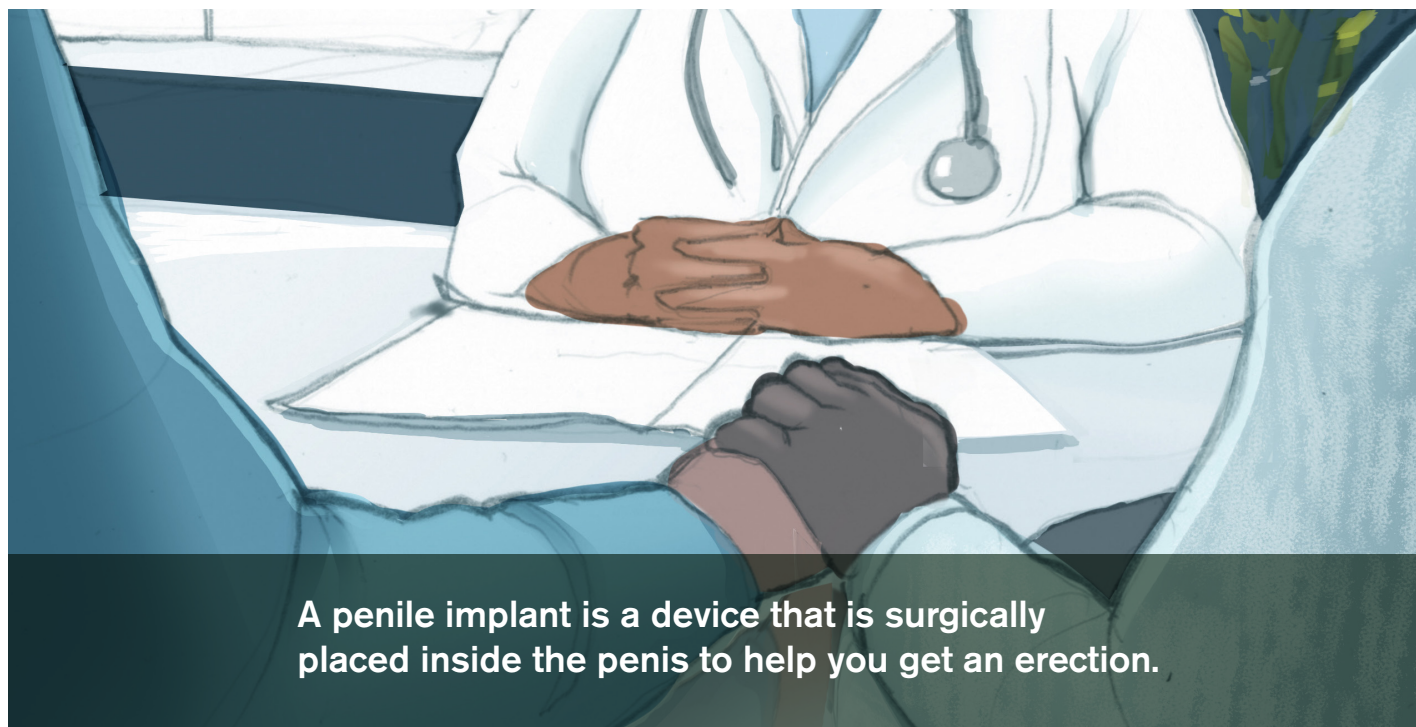


Sexual Recovery

Penile Implants



A penile implant is a device that is surgically placed inside the penis to help you get an erection.

There are two different kinds of penile implants:

- Semi-rigid rod
- Inflatable implant

Each kind of penile implant works differently and has pros and cons. Your healthcare provider will help you pick the best type for you based on:

- Your age
- Your overall health
- Your risk of infection
- Your preference

Why consider a penile implant?

Although the number of men who get implants is fairly small, implants have been successfully used for many years.

Satisfaction rates are generally high and most men who get the implant say:

- It improved their sex life
- It allows them to have penetrative sex

Men who get implants:

- Still have skin sensitivity in the penis
- Can still reach orgasm

Who shouldn't get penile implants?

Penile implants may not be right for you if you have:

- An infection (for example, ongoing urinary tract infections)
- Un-controlled diabetes
- Erection problems that are temporary

Include your partner in the decision

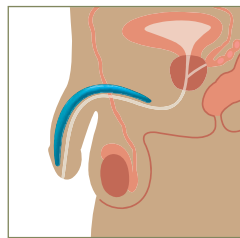
If you have a partner, it is important to include them in the discussion and decision making about penile implants. Being sexually active with your implant will affect your partner as well as your relationship.



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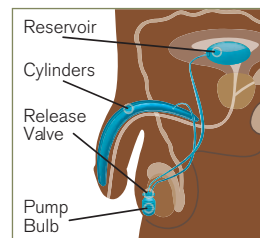
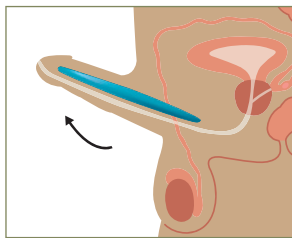
Sexual Recovery: Penile Implants

What are the different kinds of penile implants?



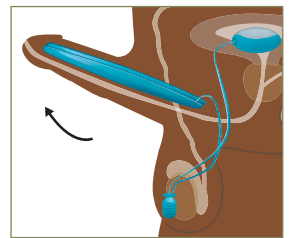
Semi-rigid rod

This penile implant is bent upwards for sex and toward the body for concealment under clothing.



Three-piece penile implant

This implant consists of inflatable cylinders inside the shaft of the penis, a fluid reservoir under the abdominal wall, and a pump inside the scrotum.



Non-inflatable implant (Semi-rigid rod)

Pros:

- Easy to implant
- No risk of mechanical breakdown
- Easy to use

Cons:

- Your penis will be firm all the time
- Can be difficult to hide erection under clothing

Inflatable Implant

Pros

- Mimics a natural erection: Your penis will be soft when the implant is deflated and firm when the implant is inflated.

Cons

- Has more parts than a non-inflatable implant so there is a higher risk of mechanical breakdown.
- May be harder to use than the semi-rigid rod for men who have arthritis in their hands.

What are the risks?

Because penile implants involve surgery, men need to weigh the risks and benefits for themselves before deciding. Once a penile prosthesis is put in, you may lose your natural erection reflex. This means that if the prosthesis is removed, you will not be able to get a natural erection again.

Risks of penile implant surgery include:

Injury during surgery

- During surgery, it is possible to have injuries to your urethra, bladder, or other organs.

Infection after surgery

- Infection is possible after surgery. You may have higher risk of infection if you have a spinal cord injury or diabetes.

Implant problems

- For inflatable implants, you may be able to feel the fluid-filled reservoir after it is placed in your stomach area.

Rare problems

- In rare cases, penile implants can break. If that happens, you will need another surgery remove, fix or replace a broken implant.
- In some cases, an implant might wear away the skin from inside the penis. Rarely, an implant can break through the skin.