



# **Radiotherapy for Stage I-II Testicular Seminoma: A Prospective Evaluation of Short-term Effects on Body Image and Sexual Function**

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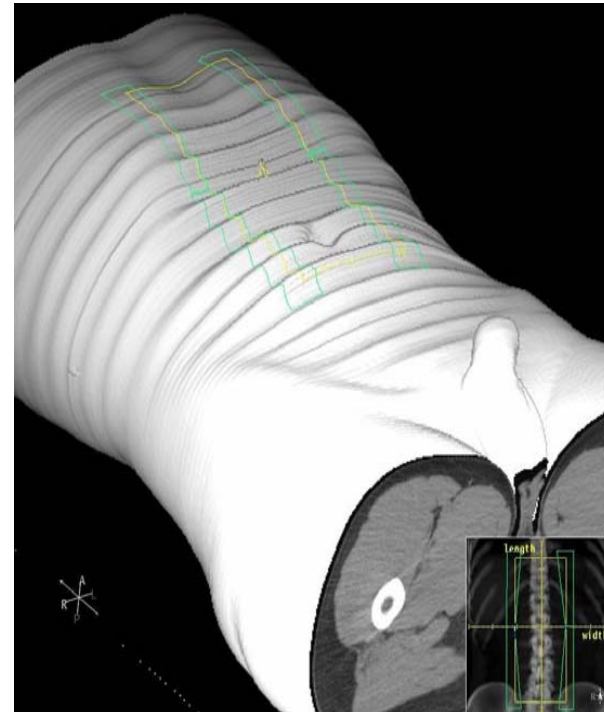
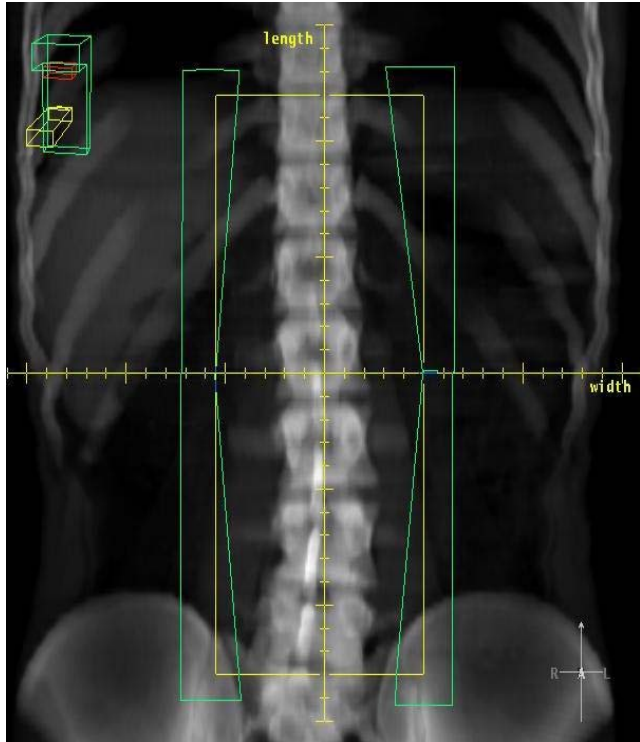
# Introduction

## Incidence

- Testicular Cancer (TC): 1-2% of male cancers
- About 60% consists of testicular seminoma
- Mostly young men (18-70 yrs)

## Treatment

- Primary: Inguinal orchiectomy
- Adjuvant: Infradiaphragmatic radiotherapy (Stage I-II)



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# Sexual Function and TC

- Sexual complaints are common (1-3)
- Body image can be impaired after treatment (4)
- Published data refer to long-term effects of treatment, with no reports on short-term effects

1. Kim et al. J. Psychosom Res 2012;73:68-73

2. Eberhard et al. J Sex Med 2009;6:1979-89

3. Dahl et al. Eur Urol. 2007;52:1438-47

4. Incrocci et al. IJROBP 2002;53:1165-73

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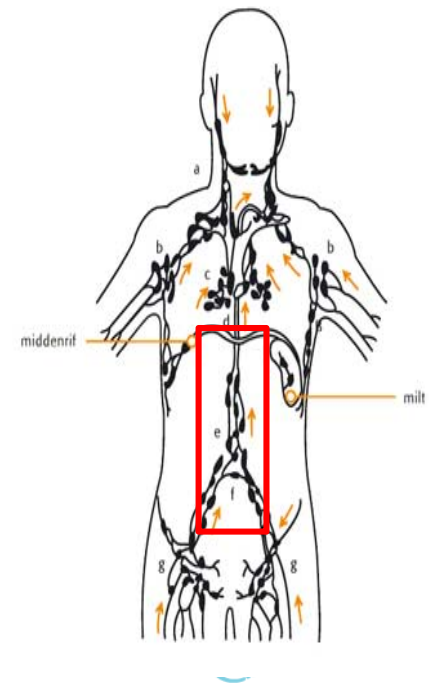
# Objectives

To evaluate the short-term effects of orchiectomy and radiotherapy on body image and sexual function in patients with testicular seminoma

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# Methods

- N=161 patients, median 36 (range 18-70) yrs, treated between 1999-2013
- Dutch questionnaire on sexual function and body image
- Prospective assessment:
  - Baseline, after orchiectomy (n=161)
  - 3 mos after radiotherapy (n=133)
  - 6 mos after radiotherapy (n=120)



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# Results

- 61% reported changes in body image
- 19% were concerned about undressing in presence of others
- 13% reported problems during sexual contacts with partner
- 48% expressed fertility concerns
  
- Age correlates with fertility concerns, problems with undressing, and sexual contacts

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## Results (cont'd)

- Reduction of fully rigid erections at 6 mos (33% → 25%)
- One fourth reported reduction in sexual interest, activity, and pleasure, with no significant difference between 3 and 6 mos
- Impaired body image was significantly associated with a decrease in sexual interest, pleasure and erectile function
- 45% reported adverse effects on sexual life, though the percentage of sexually active patients remained the same (90%)



# Results

Sexual interest, -activity and -pleasure at 3 (n=133) and 6 months (n=120) after radiotherapy (questionnaire B and C respectively)											
Questionnaire	B	C	B	C	B	C	B	C	B	C	p-value*
	(A little) more		The same		A little less		Quite a bit less		Very much less		
Since radiotherapy, is your sexual interest different than before?	3%	5%	69%	72%	19%	13%	5%	8%	4%	2%	0.239
Since radiotherapy, is your sexual activity different than before?	3%	4%	68%	73%	19%	13%	7%	8%	3%	2%	0.126
Since radiotherapy, is your sexual pleasure different than before?	3%	5%	77%	73%	14%	14%	2%	7%	4%	2%	0.846

\*Wilcoxon signed rank test between questionnaire B and C

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# Conclusions

- Patients treated for testicular seminoma experience changes in body image, sexual interest, activity, and pleasure
- Erectile rigidity was significantly reduced after 6 months
- Impaired body image was significantly associated with decrease in sexual interest, pleasure and erectile function

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# Take Home Message

Address body image and sexual function at an early stage  
in order to offer treatment or counselling if necessary

**Thank you**