



***Update on Aging and Sexual Dysfunction***  
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It is anticipated that 322 million men worldwide will develop male sexual dysfunction (SD) by the year 2025. The largest increases are projected in the developing world, where health care systems usually are under funded. Erectile dysfunction (ED), the major form of SD, is age related and the high magnitude of the increase of this disorder in aging men signals a serious new public health concern that has only recently been recognized. A better understanding of the pathophysiology of male ED and appropriate measures to prevent or treat it not only will improve the quality of life in the aging male population but also will reduce the burden it places on societies. Oral medications are now a well-established first-line therapy for male ED. As a result of the success of sildenafil (Viagra), a wide array of new drugs for male ED is on the horizon. Corporal bodies are the main target of drug action in the male erectile tissue, and cavernosal smooth muscle cell culture has been widely employed in the investigation of cellular and molecular pathways of these therapeutic agents. The overall aim of this lecture is to present an update on our rapidly expanding knowledge of the pathophysiology of ED as well as the pharmacology of orally active agents. Further, this lecture will highlight the role of various animal models in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of this disorder. The other exciting developments, such as gene therapy with endothelial nitric oxide and vascular endothelial growth factor, will also be presented. It is anticipated that this expanding information on new medications will aid physicians and patients in choosing appropriate therapy for this disorder.