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# INTRODUCTION

## Current concepts in erectile dysfunction

**T**he management of erectile dysfunction (ED) has changed from being a small part of urological practice, in the hands of a few interested practitioners, to a central activity for urologists and family physicians alike. The introduction of new and effective therapies has shifted ED into the mainstream of medical practice, and has led thousands of men to seek help for a condition that they had thought was helpless.

This supplement features articles from five Canadian experts in the field of ED, examining different aspects of the condition. Dr. Peter Pommerville starts with an overview of the definition of ED and the impact of this disease – the epidemiology and the impact on the individual. In the second article, Dr. Luc Valiquette offers a historical review of ED therapy, to remind us of just how far we have come. Dr. Serge Carrier examines the ubiquitous class of enzymes, the phosphodiesterases, and the therapeutic effect of inhibition of phosphodiesterase 5 (PDE5), the most effective current treatment of ED. In the fourth article, I describe the clinical trial results with a new PDE5 inhibitor, tadalafil. Finally, Dr. Sender Herschorn discusses an issue that is frequently raised, the cardiovascular safety of PDE5 inhibitors.

On behalf of the authors, and of the supplement sponsor Eli Lilly Canada Inc., I hope that you find this supplement interesting and informative for your clinical practice.

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