

Penis curvature

The new ESW therapy

The Urology Department of the University Hospital of Basel now offers a new multimodal therapy for curvature of the penis (induratio penis plastica, IPP) by applying extracorporeal shock waves (ESWT). The first shock wave generator in Switzerland is now available in our hospital.

Disorders of the cavernous bodies of the penis occur in approximately 5-8% of all men between the ages of 40 and 60, usually in acute and chronic phases. This is due to benign connective tissue growth in the penis with palpable nodules, pain, curvature and even shortening of the penis. The cause is still unknown, but micro-injuries of the skin overlying the cavernous bodies (due to sexual activity) and mutations of chromosome 7 are possibilities that have been suggested. The symptoms increase in the acute inflammatory phase, which can last for up to a year. This is followed by a stable phase. In some cases the angle of penile curvature is up to 90°, so that sexual intercourse is no longer possible and quality of life, in particular the relationship with one's partner, may be significantly impaired.

With ESWT, a method is now available that enables local application of shock waves to the affected tissue. This softens the induration and minimises progression of the scarring and curvature of the penis. It is best to initiate ESWT in the early phase of the disease. However, this technique can improve local symptoms even after the disease has lasted for some time.





«ESWT is a pioneering new treatment for curvature of the penis (IPP). It is painless and effective, and no adverse effects have been reported.»

PD Dr Hans Helge Seifert
Head of Department Urology

Numerous expensive medications that are available on the market have little or no success in treating penile curvature and have adverse side effects.

One cycle of shock wave treatment includes 6–12 individual sessions, depending on the severity of the disease. These are not yet covered by the health insurance companies.



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You are welcome to contact us –
we would be happy to advise you
at a confidential consultation.