Impact of pyospermia on sperm dynamic motility parameters and DNA integrity

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Background: Pyospermia is a common finding in infertile men with controversial issues about its significance. Objective: To evaluate effect of pyospermia on computerized semen (CASA) parameters, sperm DNA integrity and chromosomal aneuploidy in infertile men.

Methods: The study included clinical evaluation, peroxidase stain, CASA, sperm DNA evaluation with acridine orange test and sperm FISH analysis of 18 x and Y chromosomes. Main outcome measure: Comparison between the infertile men with and without pyospermia CASA, sperm DNA fragmentation with acridine orange test and sperm FISH parameters. Also, to correlate between the number of pus cells and these parameters.

Results: Infertile men with pyospermia had significantly lower sperm progressive and total motility percentages. Also, motility parameters by CASA including curvilinear, straight line and average pathway velocities, straightness, and amplitude of lateral head displacement were significantly lower with pyospermia. Sperm DNA fragmentation index by AOT was significantly higher with pyospermia. These changes in sperm motility parameters and DNA integrity correlated with the number of peroxidase positive leukocytes.

Conclusions: Pyospermia has a negative impact on sperm motility parameters and DNA integrity regardless infertility as a cofactor.

The influence of environment on the sperm quality: a comprehensive, retrospective, cohort study

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Background: Several studies proposed a relationship between environmental factors and semen quality. In particular, the negative effect of air pollution on spermato genesis and gonadal function is currently suggested. However, no specific studies evaluated the environmental influence on semen quality in a specific geographical area and time frame.

Aim: The aim of this study was the assessment of the relationship of both air pollution and environmental parameters with quality-related sperm variables, during the coldest months of the year characterized by the most polluted air.

Methods: A retrospective, observational, cohort study was carried out in the province of Modena, located in the Emilia-Romagna region of Northern Italy. Semen analyses, environmental temperature, air humidity and air particulate matter (PM) measurements from the 1st of November, 2014 to the 19th of February, 2015 were acquired to the first database. A second, wider database was arranged, evaluating environmental exposure in the 3 months before semen collection (from August 1st 2014). All data included in the database were registered by geo-codification of the residential address of the patients and the site of registration of environmental factors. The geo-codification of parameters was performed using Fusion Tables of Google available at https://www.google.com/fusiontables/data?dsrcid=implicit, considering the exact time of measurement.

Results: Average air temperature was inversely related to sperm concentration and to total sperm number (p < 0.001). Semen volume was inversely related only to the minimum (p < 0.001) and not to maximum recorded temperature (p = 0.110). Air humidity was not related to sperm quantity and quality. PM2.5 was directly related to total sperm number (p < 0.001). PM10 was directly related to both semen volume (0 < 0.001) and typical forms (p < 0.001), inversely related to atypical forms (p < 0.001), and related neither to sperm concentration (p = 0.430) nor to sperm motility. The extended analyses considering environmental parameters in the 3 months before semen collection, confirmed the relationship between air temperature and sperm quantity, whereas no influence was found between PM and sperm quality.

Conclusion: We found an influence of environmental temperature on semen quantity, without a clear effect of air pollution, as assessed through PM10 levels, on sperm parameters variations. Environmental temperature and humidity seem to not affect semen quality, although a wider bigdata approach could better explain this relationship.

Effect of Sperm DNA fragmentation on the clinical outcomes for couples with unexplained infertility undergoing in vitro fertilization

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Topic: Male infertility-diagnosis

Keywords: DNA fragmentation, in vitro fertilization, male infertility

Background: Sperm analysis is the cornerstone in male factor study, however it is not enough to predict fertility, leading to the need of additional tests. One of these, is the sperm DNA fragmentation index (DFI) which evaluates sperm DNA integrity. A DFI > 15% has been associated with worse prognosis for fertilization and pregnancy rates, blastocyst development and pregnancy loss. Some studies have...
The interplay between premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Background: The specific determinants and underlying factors linking erectile dysfunction (ED) and premature ejaculation (PE) have yet to be clearly identified.

Aim: To review and meta-analyze all available data regarding the link between ED and PE.

Methods: An extensive Medline Embase and Cochrane search was performed including the following words: ‘premature ejaculation’, ‘erectile dysfunction’. All observational trials comparing the risk of ED in relation to PE were included. Data extraction was performed independently by two of the authors (G.R, G.C), and conflicts resolved by the third investigator (M.M).

Results: Out of 474 retrieved articles, 18 were included in the study for a total of 57,229 patients, of which 12,144 (21.2%) had PE. The presence of PE, however defined, was associated with a significant increase in ED risk (OR: 3.68 [2.61;5.18]; p < 0.0001). Meta-regression analysis showed that the risk of ED in PE subjects was higher in older individuals as well as in those with a lower level of education and in those who reported a stable relationship less frequently. In addition, subjects with PE and ED more often reported anxiety and depressive symptoms and a lower prevalence of organic associated morbidities, including diabetes mellitus, hypertension and dyslipidemia. All the latter associations were confirmed even after adjustment for age. Finally the risk of PE-related ED increased with the increased proportion of acquired ejaculatory problems (adj r = 0.414; p < 0.0001 after the adjustment for age).

Conclusions: In conclusion, the present data showed that ED and PE are not distinctly separate entities but should be considered from a dimensional point of view. Understanding this dimensional perspective might help sexual health care professionals in providing the most appropriate therapeutic approach to realistically increase patient related outcomes in sexual medicine.

First generation PDE5i dropout: a comprehensive review and meta-analysis

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Background: The discontinuation rate with phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors (PDE5i) remains very high.

Aim: To review and meta-analyze currently available data regarding dropout of the first-generation of PDE5i including sildenafil, vardenafil and tadalafil.

Methods: An extensive Medline Embase and Cochrane search was performed including the following words: ‘PDE5i’, ‘discontinuation’. All observational studies reporting the dropout rate of PDE5i and its specific causes without any arbitrary restrictions were included.

Results: Out of 103 retrieved articles, 22 were included in the study. Retrieved trials included a total of 162,936 patients with a mean age of 58.8 ± 7.9 years. Prevalence of reported comorbid diabetes and hypertension were 27.7% and 36.9%, respectively. PDE5i were associated with a mean discontinuation rate of 4% per month (almost 50% after one year). This rate was higher in younger subjects and in those reporting a higher prevalence of associated morbidities. Six main reasons of PDE5i dropout were identified in the evaluated trials. Partner-related problems and lack of efficacy represented the most important reasons for PDE5i discontinuation, although no significant difference among factors was detected.

Conclusions: Despite their high efficacy and easy administration, the discontinuation rate and dissatisfaction with PDE5i are still very high. Our data showed that no single factor plays a major role in PDE5i dropout, suggesting that the discontinuation rate is usually due to a combination of both medical problems and psychosocial and relational factors.