

Changes in penile length after radical prostatectomy studied

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(HealthDay)—Although penile shortening of about 1 cm can occur at three months after a radical prostatectomy (RP) for the treatment of localized prostate cancer, recovery of penile length begins after 24 months and is complete after 48 months, according to a study published in the December issue of *Urology*.

Juliana Souza Vasconcelos, of the Pedro Ernesto Memorial Hospital in [Rio de Janeiro](#), and colleagues conducted a long-term, prospective study involving 105 men with localized [prostate cancer](#) who were treated by open RP. The authors sought to evaluate the [natural history](#) of penile length in this population of patients.

The researchers found that, from three months through 24 months after RP, the mean stretched penile length was decreased by an average of 1 cm from baseline. However, at 36 months, the difference in penile length was only 0.6 cm. The mean differences in penile length by 48 months and 60 months were nonsignificant (-0.3 and $+0.4$ cm, respectively). Early return of penile length correlated with erectile function.

"Penile shortening of approximately 1 cm after RP may be expected up to 12 months. However, a trend toward recovery of baseline penile length occurs after 24 months of follow-up and, furthermore, is completely re-established after 48 months," the authors write. "The maintenance of erectile function after RP is a predictor for early recovery of penile length."

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