

# rhBMP-2 linked to increased rate of retrograde ejaculation

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For patients with lumbar spondylosis or spondylolisthesis of the lowest lumbar levels who undergo open anterior lumbar interbody fusion, use of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 is associated with an increased rate of retrograde ejaculation, according to research published in the October issue of *The Spine Journal*.

(HealthDay)—For patients with lumbar spondylosis or spondylolisthesis of the lowest lumbar levels who undergo open anterior lumbar interbody fusion (ALIF), use of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 (rhBMP-2) is associated with an increased rate of retrograde ejaculation (RE), according to research published in the October issue of *The Spine Journal*.

Garet C. Comer, M.D., from Stanford University in Redwood City, Calif., and colleagues retrospectively analyzed 10 years of prospectively gathered outcomes data from four consecutive-patient cohorts of males who underwent the same anterior exposure technique for ALIF for

lumbar spondylosis or [spondylolisthesis](#) at the lowest one or two levels. Two cohorts had rhBMP-2 exposure (88 and 151 men) and the other two had no exposure (one before adoption of rhBMP-2 use, 174 men; one after discontinuation of rhBMP-2, 59 men).

The researchers identified a diagnosis of RE in 6.3 percent of 239 patients with ALIF and exposure to rh-BMP-2 and in 0.9 percent of 233 control patients without rhBMP-2 exposure. In patients exposed to rhBMP-2, urinary retention after bladder catheter removal was observed more frequently (9.7 percent) compared with control patients (4.6 percent;  $P = 0.043$ ). Medical or surgical treatment for prostatic hypertrophy disease was significantly associated with an increased risk of RE in the rhBMP-2 treated patients ( $P = 0.034$ ).

"This study supports multiple lines of evidence that strongly suggest rhBMP-2 use with an anterior interbody fusion at the lumbosacral junction is associated with an increased risk of RE," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed [financial ties](#) to the medical device industry.

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