

# Effect of shock wave treatment for erectile dysfunction wanes

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(HealthDay)—Low-intensity shock wave treatment is effective for short-

term treatment of erectile dysfunction, but its efficacy declines after two years, particularly in those with initial severe dysfunction, according to a study published in the July issue of *The Journal of Urology*.

Noam D. Kitrey, M.D., from Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, and colleagues studied the long-term efficacy of penile low intensity shock wave [treatment](#) two years after an initially successful outcome among 156 patients.

The researchers found that at one month, treatment was successful in 99 patients (63.5 percent), but during follow-up a gradual decrease in efficacy was observed. At two years, the beneficial effect was maintained in only 53.5 percent of patients in whom success was initially achieved. Over follow-up the treatment effect was lost in all patients with diabetes who initially had severe erectile dysfunction. However, for patients with milder forms of erectile dysfunction without diabetes there was a 76 percent chance that the beneficial effect of low-intensity shock wave treatment would be preserved after two years.

"Low-intensity shock wave treatment is effective in the short term but treatment efficacy was maintained after two years in only half of the patients," the authors write. "In [patients](#) with milder forms of [erectile dysfunction](#) the [beneficial effect](#) is more likely to be preserved."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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