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**Key Words**

Erectile dysfunction

IIEF

Aging male

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## Prevalence of Erectile Dysfunction in Taiwanese Males: A Statistical Analysis of 5939 Urological Patients

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**ABSTRACT**

In order to estimate the prevalence of erectile dysfunction in Taiwanese males, we designed a questionnaire study for the quantitative evaluation of male erectile function. Thirty-five urological physicians and 33 medical practitioners participated this study, and totally 5939 patients aged from 20 to 93 years responded to the questionnaire. In this study, we divided the degree of erectile dysfunction into slight level, medium level, and severe level using the International Index of Erectile Function-5 (IIEF-5) score. The results showed that 77% of patients aged from 21 to 30 years had normal sexual function. However, among patients aged from 51 to 60 years, only 18% were normal; and when the age of the patients reached 80 years, only 3% remained normal. The significant deterioration in male erectile function with aging is very prominent. Patients with medium to severe erectile dysfunction (IIEF score  $\leq 11$ ) accounted for only 2% of this cohort aged 21 to 30 years. This increased to 64% of male patients up to the age of 80 years. The cutoff for a decline in the Taiwanese male sexual function was determined to be between the ages of 61 and 70 years, at which time an abrupt increase in the percentage of medium to severe erectile dysfunction was statistically significant in this large-scale study.

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### INTRODUCTION

Patients of urological departments in Taiwan were evaluated using the International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF), which has been widely used since 1996.<sup>1</sup> It has been proven that the IIEF can be applied to determine whether erectile function has deteriorated. However, there have been no large-scale sur-

veys to reveal how many males suffer from erectile dysfunction in different age groups. There is also no strict cutoff to mark the decline in sexual function of Taiwanese males. In this study, outpatients in urological departments of clinics and hospitals were interviewed, to determine the proportions of male urological patients of different ages who suffer from erectile disorder in Taiwan.

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