

iciency (< 2.8 ng/dl) accordingly increase.<sup>12</sup> This explains why reduced interest in sexual intercourse may result in disordered erectile function among the elderly. Naturally, there are other physiological changes in aging males. For example, the peak flow velocity of the cavernosal arteries is significantly decreased in aged erectile dysfunction patients among Taiwanese.<sup>13</sup> Other factors, such as the social environment and one's partner which may also result in erectile dysfunction, should be further investigated in the future.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The original work of this study was conducted by the Taiwan Erectile Dysfunction Advisory Consult and Training (Taiwan EDACT), and was sponsored by Pfizer Limited, Taiwan. Part of the data including Tables 2 and 3 in this article were previously published in *Formosan Journal of Sexology* (Chinese version). We appreciate the kind permission of *Formosan Journal of Sexology* allowing us to use the data in this study.

### REFERENCES

- Rosen, R.C., Riley, A., Wagner G., Osterloh, I.H., Kirkpatrick, J., Mishra, A. The International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF): a multidimensional scale for assessment of erectile dysfunction. *Urology* 1997; **49**: 822-830.
- Rosen, R.C., Cappelleri, J.C., Smith, M.D., Lipsky, J., Pena, B.M. Development and evaluation of an abridged, 5 item version of the International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-5) as a diagnostic tool for erectile dysfunction. *Int. J. Impot. Res.* 1999; **11**: 319-326.
- Feldman, H.A., Goldstein, I., Hatzichristou, D.G., Krane, R.J., Mckinlay, J.B. Impotence and its medical and psychosocial correlates: results of the Massachusetts Male Aging Study. *J. Urol.* 1994; **151**: 54-61.
- Chiang, H.S., Shyr, W.B., Chiang, W.H. Sexual activity in the elderly. *Aging Male* 1998; **1**(Suppl. 1): 52.
- Chang, S.C., Chen, K.K., Chang, L.S. The Efficiency of International Index of Erectile Function-5 (IIEF-5) for evaluation of erectile dysfunction. *J. Urol. ROC* 2000; **11**: 131-133.
- Chiang, H.S., Wu, C.C., Wen, T.C. 10 years of experience with penile prosthesis implantation in Taiwanese patients. *J. Urol.* 2000; **163**: 476-480.
- Wang, Y.X., Leng, J., Chen, B. The prevalence of erectile dysfunction in elderly in Shanghai: an analysis of 1582 cases. *Int. J. Impot. Res.* 1997; **9**(Suppl. 1): S45.
- Kumamoto, Y., Tsukamoto, T., Satoh, Y. Epidemiological study on aging changes of sexual activity in Japanese men and women. *Aging Male* 2000; **3**(Suppl. 1): 9.
- Ferrini, R.L. and Barrett-Connor, E. Sex hormone and age: a cross-sectional study of testosterone and estradiol and their bioavailable fractions in community-dwelling men. *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 1998; **147**: 750-754.
- Vermeulen, A., Kaufman, J.M. Ageing of the hypothalamo-pituitary-testicular axis in men. *Horm. Res.* 1995; **43**: 25-28.
- Plymate, S.R., Tenover, J.S., Bremner, W.J. Circadian variation in testosterone, sex hormone-binding globulin, and calculated non-sex hormone-binding globulin-bound testosterone in healthy young and elderly men. *J. Androl.* 1989; **10**(5): 366-371.
- Chiang, H.S. Serum testosterone determination in the patients with sexual dysfunction. Abstract in the program of 1998 annual meeting and general scientific meeting of the Chinese Association of Sexuality Education. April 18, 1998: 43.
- Chiang, H.S. Application of color Doppler in male sexual dysfunction. *J. Med. Ultrasound* 1994; **2** (Suppl. 1): 89.