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Genital diseases in the mature man

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Abstract
Elderly men are at higher risk of developing genital dermatologic problems, including inflammatory and neoplastic conditions due to age related physiologic changes, immunosenesence, comorbidities, and iatrogenesis. Clinical manifestations of genital dermatoses in men are varied and may include itching, pain, redness, dermatitis, lumps, and ulcers. Even when asymptomatic, the psychologic impact may be significant. Sexual or urinary dysfunction may complicate genital dermatoses. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential to reduce morbidity and mortality from premaligant and malignant conditions and also to prevent sexual dysfunction and unnecessary anxiety in the case of benign entities.

Introduction
Although genital skin is generally protected from UV light exposure, it is subject to intrinsic aging. This manifests in reduced elasticity, higher sensitivity to environmental irritants (e.g. soaps and other toiletries), and reduced function of the sebaceous and sweat glands. Keratinocyte turnover, skin barrier-function, dermoepidermal adhesion, immune function, wound healing, and elimination rate of chemical substances are also impaired. The net effect in the elderly population is an increase in the incidence of inflammatory dermatologic disorders as well as cutaneous malignancies, although there are no specific data for genital dermatoses.

Sexuality remains important to the older man. Male sexual activity (and therefore friction and koebnerization) might be thought to fall off with age, but there are data to show that older men and their partners can expect to enjoy sustained sexual activity
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