

I have always felt that prostatitis is a disease of the person and not simply an inflammation of the prostate and have, therefore, given advice regarding both dietary and physical and mental hygiene along with antibiotic therapy to more effectively eliminate the chances of relapse or recurrence.

Donald H. Rudnick, M.D.
151 West Willow Street
Pomona, California 91768

VACUUM CLEANER INJURY TO PENIS

To the Editor: With reference to the article by R. C. Benson entitled, "Vacuum Cleaner Injury to the Penis: A common urologic problem," published in the January issue (vol. 25, pages 41-45, 1985) of UROLOGY, we wish to document another case of this uncommon injury induced by mechanical auto stimulation.

A sixty-three-year-old man was admitted to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary with a penile injury. He claimed that this was caused by a fall over a vacuum cleaner while partially clothed. On admission the penis was noted to be swollen with some bruising of the shaft. The foreskin showed a ventral laceration but could not be retracted owing to severe pain and the presence of a large preputial clot. Under a general anesthetic, the foreskin was retracted and four full-thickness sagittal lacerations of the glans

penis were found extending deep into the erectile tissue, but not involving the urethra. The frenulum was torn, but there was no damage to the skin of the shaft of the penis or corpora cavernosa. Circumcision was performed, the lacerations repaired, and the patient was catheterized at the end of the procedure.

Both the history and the injuries are typical of those sustained during autoerotic stimulation with a vacuum cleaner, as described by Fox and Barrett¹ and Pryor *et al.*² As with cases previously documented in the British literature¹⁻³ the patient described was in the older age group (> 50 years), in contrast to the predominantly younger patients noted by Benson.

We believe this is the only such case documented in the Glasgow hospitals, suggesting that this bizarre form of autostimulation is a rare cause of penile injury.

Henry Lewi, M.B., F.R.C.S.
John K. Drury, Ph.D., F.R.C.S.
Michael Monsour, M.B., F.R.C.S.
Department of Urology
Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Scotland

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