

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

**Erectile dysfunction as a symptom of vascular disease**

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Erection is a result of a complex cooperation of psychical, vascular and nervous mechanisms. It involves a complex of easily vulnerable physiological processes. The cause of erectile dysfunction depends on a great number of factors, while its most frequent cause are vascular changes originating on the basis of atherosclerosis. On one hand, atherosclerosis causes functional vascular disorders, i.e. it participates in endothelial dysfunction, and on the other hand it constricts the vascular lumen. Usually, the organ becomes clinically afflicted when the arterial lumen is reduced by approximately 50 %. Functional as well as structural disorders result from generalised affliction of vascular system. Between the origin of erectile dysfunction and diseases of vascular system is a relationship. It has been proved that the prevalence of

erectile dysfunction in patients with ischemic heart disease (IHD) is usually 65 %, while the interval between the origin of erectile dysfunction and the accession of HIS is 39 months in average. Therefore the erectile dysfunction is considered to be a warning symptom of the approaching disease of the heart. Active searching of patients with erectile dysfunctions by urologists might serve as a measure of revealing the so-far mute coronary, peripheral or cerebrovascular diseases threatening the health and lives of patients.\*

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