

Spinal Cord Injury
Fertility Aspects of Spinal Cord Injury
Lesson 4

SEXUALITY MALES

Erectile dysfunction is present in most.

- UMN injuries 70-90% have some erectile function, 4% have intact ejaculation. LMN injuries the numbers 20% & 20%.
- Tx for ED: Viagra, Levita, Muse, Caver-jet, vacuum pump, implant
- Fertility: electro or vibratory ejaculation, 65-95% successful, with 50% pregnancy rate
- Sexual counseling is required for many

SEXUALITY FEMALES

- 50% will not miss a menstrual cycle, remain as fertile after SCI as prior to SCI
- Lubrication, & orgasm is present in >50%, 70% report satisfaction with sexuality
- Birth control present concerns, BCPs > risk of DVT. Condoms may be best option
- Slightly >incidence premature & <birth wt infants.
- 3rd trimester >UTIs, AD, Tetraplegics may have breathing problems, decubitus ulcers, ADLs become more difficult as do transfers.

SEXUALITY FEMALES

- Child birth usually vaginal delivery, AD is a concern, episiotomy breakdown, >DVT after delivery, breast feeding may cause AD
- Most report PCP does not address sexuality issues, or do routine exams
- After D/C home will require power W/C, some PCA services, Nanny for tetras
- Tetras are unable to do self breast exam
- Divorce & abuse are higher
- < sensation in perineum makes dx of STDs more difficult
