

tions it has on their parental role and everyday life with their children. Furthermore it is imperative to understand this phenomenon in order to ascertain how best to support this under-explored patient group.

Materials & Methods: A qualitative hermeneutic phenomenological approach is being utilised. This approach will facilitate insights into fathers' experiences of paternal cancer and how living with cancer has affected their everyday life with their children, and if and how it has impacted on their role as a father.

Results: Data collection will commence in August 2011; initial findings will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion: The findings of the study will provide data on which to build supports for this patient group and their children (Penner & McClement, 2008). It is anticipated that these findings will also be transferable to fathers with parental responsibilities living with other chronic illnesses.

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Topic: Non-Urology/Men's Health Policy

MENS HEALTH: THE BACTERIAL EXTRACT BRONCHO-VAXOM® PROTECTS AGAINST INFLUENZA AND SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

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Background: The bacterial extract Broncho-Vaxom® (OM-85 BV) provides protection against acute and recurrent respiratory infection and consists of immunostimulating components derived from 8 bacterial species or 21 bacterial strains frequently responsible for these infections. We investigated, in murine models, the efficacy of this novel useful therapeutic agent for the therapy of viral and bacterial infections.

Materials & Methods: The efficacy and mode of action of OM-85 BV to protect mice from an A/PR/8/34 (H1N1) influenza virus infection was determined by survival studies, appearance of clinical signs, and hemagglutination inhibition assays. The protection of mice from a *Salmonella typhimurium* infection was investigated using survival assays. Serum antibody production against various pathogenic bacterial strains was tested using ELISA. **Results:** We investigated the role of OM-85 BV in protecting against an A/PR/8/34 (H1N1) influenza virus infection. In a group treated with 1.75 mg/mouse OM-85 BV all animals survived, compared to 70% in the untreated control group. The appearance of clinical signs was delayed, their intensity was decreased, and they disappeared faster. Also a marked increase in the influenza hemagglutination inhibition antibody level was observed. We also investigated the protection of mice from a *Salmonella typhimurium* infection after the oral administration of OM-85 BV. Here, 100% of the OM-85 BV treated animals survived compared to 58% of the untreated control group. The mechanism of protection was further investigated. OM-85 BV acts, on the one hand, as stimulator of the unspecific immune response, and on the other hand as an immunogen: repeated administration of OM-85 BV induced a marked increase in serum antibody levels recognizing pathogenic bacterial strains. Our findings demonstrate the antimicrobial activity of OM-85 BV against various kinds of infections, as also has been shown in a large number of clinical studies.

Conclusion: Studies on the mode of action of the bacterial extract Broncho-Vaxom® (OM-85 BV), a useful novel therapeutic agent for the treatment of infections of the respiratory tract, have been performed in mouse models. They showed protection from microbial infections and increased antibody production against a variety of pathogenic bacterial strains.

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DETECTION OF VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN A GENERAL UROLOGY MEN'S HEALTH PRACTICE

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Background: Vitamin D deficiency has been reported to be prevalent in the general population in the United States. Vitamin D has been associated with numerous health benefits ranging from bone health to cancer prevention. An emerging group of individual urologists consider themselves, and are perceived as, "Men's Health" experts. Vitamin D deficiency is therefore an important men's health concern. Detection and treatment of vitamin D deficiency in a general urology men's health practice should be considered.

Materials & Methods: A prospective analysis (vitamin D3 levels checked by blood samples) of 200 consecutive male patients was performed in a general urology men's health practice.

Results: Vitamin D deficiency was detected in 74% of the patients tested.

Conclusion: Vitamin D deficiency was highly prevalent in a general urology men's health practice. Urologists, particularly those interested in providing more comprehensive men's health care to patients, should consider testing for vitamin D levels as part of their evaluation of new and established male patients. Treatment is simple, inexpensive, and effective. This simple modification in urology practice can augment the urologist's role in providing more comprehensive care as a "Men's Health" specialist.

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Topic: Non-Urology/Mental Health

PREVALENCE OF DEPRESSION IN MALE AND FEMALE PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISORDERS

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Background: Depression represents a common mental health disorder in the general population, with a higher prevalence among women and patients suffering from diseases of a chronic nature. We investigated whether the presence of chronic illness, such as rheumatic disorders, results in an increased prevalence of depression among male patients, and whether this prevalence follows the same pattern of decreased prevalence compared with a female population of similar baseline characteristics.

Materials & Methods: Consecutive patients at the Rheumatology Department of Hippokraton General Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece, participated in the present pilot study. The Zung self-rating depression scale was used to evaluate presence of depression, with total score ranging from 20–80 and a cumulative score ≥ 50 considered representative of depressive symptomatology. In addition, all patients had their body mass index (BMI), blood pressure levels, smoking and drinking habits recorded.

Results: A total of 323 patients were examined with a mean age of 54.4 ± 12.8 years, 61 of whom were men and 262 women. The most prevalent diseases in our population were rheumatoid arthritis (36%), osteoarthritis (10%), systemic lupus erythematosus (10%), psoriatic arthritis (9%), ankylosing spondylitis (9%), and others (26%). Prevalence of depression among male subjects was 18% and did not differ significantly compared to female patients, 23% of whom exhibited depression ($P = 0.474$). Blood pressure levels and BMI did not correlate with depressive symptomatology, and disease duration was similar between depressive and non-depressive patients (7 years). Likewise, smoking and alcohol consumption did not differ between normal and depressive patients ($P = 0.264$ and $P = 0.062$, respectively).