

# Malleable Penile Implant

WARWIKI

Patient Information · A bendable (semi-rigid) implant for erectile dysfunction

A malleable penile implant — also called a semi-rigid implant — is a pair of firm, bendable rods placed inside the penis, for men whose erectile dysfunction has not improved with pills, injections, or other treatments. There is nothing to pump: you simply bend the penis up to have sex and down to conceal it. This handout explains how it works, how to prepare, and what to expect.

## About This Procedure

When **erectile dysfunction (ED)** does not improve with pills, a vacuum device, or injections, an implant is the most reliable next step. A malleable implant is the simplest type — two soft-coated, bendable rods are placed inside the penis. It stays firm enough for sex at all times, and you position it by hand:

- Bend it **up** to have sex
- Bend it **down** to conceal it under clothing

Because it has no pump, reservoir, or fluid, it is the **simplest to use and the most durable** type of implant — a good choice if working a pump would be hard (for example, with limited hand strength).

## What to Know

Like all penile implants, this is a **permanent choice**: placing it changes the erectile tissue, so afterward natural erections and other ED treatments (pills, injections) no longer work. It does **not change your urination, sensation, orgasm, or ejaculation**. The main trade-off versus the inflatable type: the penis stays firm at all times, so it can be a little harder to conceal and feels less like a natural erection — but it is simpler and longer-lasting.

## LEARN THE TERMS

### Erectile dysfunction (ED)

Trouble getting or keeping an erection firm enough for sex.

### Penile implant

A device placed in the penis to allow erections when other treatments have not worked.

### Malleable / semi-rigid

A bendable implant that keeps the penis firm; you position it by hand, with no pump.

### Inflatable implant

The other main type — a pump inflates and deflates it; more natural, but more parts.

### Concealment

Bending the penis down so the implant is not noticeable under clothing.

### General anesthesia

Medicine that keeps you asleep and pain-free during surgery.

### Durable

Long-lasting — with no fluid parts, there is little to wear out or fail.

**WILL IT HURT?** The surgery is done under general or spinal anesthesia, so you feel nothing during it. Afterward, expect soreness, swelling, and bruising of the penis and scrotum for a couple of weeks — a scrotal support, ice, and pain medicine help. The surgery is short (often under an hour) and usually done the same day. Do not use the implant for sex until your surgeon clears you.

## How to Get Ready (Before Surgery)

- Done under **general or spinal anesthesia** — follow all surgery instructions (fasting, and which medicines to hold, including blood thinners).
- **Infection prevention is critical for an implant:** any infection (including a urine infection) must be treated first; you'll shower with antiseptic soap and receive antibiotics.
- **Do not smoke or vape**, and if you have **diabetes** your team will want your blood sugar well controlled — both lower the infection risk.

### Tell your team ahead of time if you:

- Have **diabetes**, or any condition affecting wound healing
- Have had prior pelvic or penile surgery, radiation, or a previous implant

## What Happens During Surgery

- 1 You are asleep or numb from the waist down under anesthesia, and antibiotics are given.
- 2 Through one small incision, the surgeon places a **bendable rod into each of the two chambers** of the penis. There is no pump or reservoir.
- 3 The incision is closed and the penis is left positioned down. A catheter may be placed briefly.

## After Surgery

- Expect penile and scrotal **swelling and bruising** for 1–2 weeks. Wear a scrotal support, use ice, take pain medicine, and keep the incision clean and dry.
- **Do not use the implant for sex until your surgeon clears you** — usually about **4–6 weeks**, once healing is complete.
- Once healed, there is **no pump to learn** — you simply bend the penis up to use it and down to conceal it. Your team will show you how.

### Call your care team or seek care if you have:

- A fever or chills, or growing redness, pain, swelling, or drainage at the incision
- You cannot urinate
- Severe or worsening pain, or the penis looks dusky or dark

## THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. A malleable implant is two bendable rods in the penis — bend it up for sex, down to conceal. No pump; it's the simplest to use and the most durable type.
2. It is a **permanent choice** (natural erections and pills/injections won't work afterward), but it does **not change urination, sensation, orgasm, or ejaculation**.
3. Preventing infection matters most: treat any infection first, don't smoke, control diabetes, and use the antiseptic wash and antibiotics. Don't use it for sex until your surgeon clears you (~4–6 weeks).