

Peyronie's disease causes a scar (plaque) inside the penis that can bend it during an erection, sometimes making sex difficult. Penile plication straightens the bend by placing stitches on the longer side of the penis to gently “tuck” it, matching it to the shorter side. This handout explains how it works, how to prepare, and what to expect.

About This Procedure

In Peyronie's disease, scar tissue pulls one side of the penis tighter, so it bends with an erection. Plication straightens it by stitching and shortening the **longer (outer) side** of the curve until both sides match. No scar is cut and no graft is used — it is the simplest, shortest of the straightening operations, with the **lowest risk of new erection problems**.

It is a good choice when:

- Your curve is moderate and not too complex
- Your **erections are good** (with or without help from pills)
- Your penis is long enough that a little shortening is acceptable

What to Know

The main trade-off is some **shortening** of the penis — usually about 1–2 cm. Many men overestimate this; because the bend is corrected, the usable, straight length is often as good as before. About **9 in 10** men get a straight-enough erection for sex. You may be able to **feel the stitches** under the skin (common, and usually not bothersome). The goal is a penis straight enough for comfortable sex, not always perfectly straight.

LEARN THE TERMS

Peyronie's disease

A scar in the penis that makes it bend during an erection.

Plaque

The patch of scar tissue causing the curve.

Plication

Straightening the penis by stitching and shortening the longer side.

Artificial erection

An erection created in the operating room (with an injection) so the surgeon can measure and check the curve.

Circumcision

Removal of the foreskin — sometimes done at the same time if you are not already circumcised.

Vacuum device

A pump sometimes used during healing to help keep length and erections.

General anesthesia

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

WILL IT HURT? The surgery is done under general, spinal, or local anesthesia, so you feel nothing during it. Afterward, expect swelling, bruising, and soreness of the penis for 1–2 weeks — ice, support, and pain medicine help. It is a short operation (often about an hour) and usually done the same day. A catheter may be in place briefly.

How to Get Ready (Before Surgery)

- Done under **general, spinal, or local anesthesia** — follow all surgery instructions (fasting, and which medicines to hold, including blood thinners).
- Your Peyronie's should be **stable** (the curve and any pain settled for several months) — your surgeon confirms it is the right time.
- **Do not smoke**; any infection is treated first, and you'll get antibiotics. If you are not circumcised, a circumcision may be done at the same time — ask your surgeon.

Tell your team ahead of time if you:

- Have **weak erections** or take medicine for erections
- Take a blood thinner, or have had prior penile surgery

What Happens During Surgery

- 1 You are asleep or numb under anesthesia, and antibiotics are given.
- 2 An **erection is created with an injection** so the surgeon can see the curve, then stitches are placed on the longer side to tuck and straighten the penis.
- 3 The result is checked with another erection, and the skin is closed (a circumcision may be done at the same time if needed).

After Surgery

- Expect **swelling, bruising, and soreness** for 1–2 weeks. Use ice, supportive underwear, and pain medicine; keep the area clean.
- If a catheter was placed, it usually comes out the morning after surgery.
- **Avoid sex for about 4–6 weeks** so the repair can heal.
- Your team may have you take a **low-dose erection pill** and/or use a **vacuum device** daily during healing to help keep length and erections.

Call your care team or seek care if you have:

- A fever or chills, or growing redness, pain, swelling, or drainage at the wound
- You cannot urinate
- Severe or worsening swelling or pain, or heavy bleeding

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Plication straightens the curve by stitching the longer side of the penis — no scar is cut and no graft is used. It is the simplest straightening operation, with the lowest risk of new erection problems.
2. The trade-off is some **shortening** (usually 1–2 cm), though correcting the bend often restores usable length; ~9 in 10 men get a straight-enough erection. You may feel the stitches under the skin.
3. Your Peyronie's should be stable first; don't smoke. Afterward, avoid sex ~4–6 weeks and follow any healing plan (pill / vacuum device). Call for fever, severe swelling, or trouble urinating.