

Plaque Incision and Grafting

WARWIKI

Patient Information · Surgery to straighten the penis (Peyronie's disease)

Peyronie's disease causes a scar (plaque) inside the penis that can bend it during an erection, sometimes making sex difficult. In this surgery, the scar on the short, tight side of the penis is cut (and sometimes partly removed) to release the bend, and the gap is patched with a graft. This handout explains how it works, how to prepare, and what to expect.

About This Procedure

A plaque of scar tissue pulls one side of the penis tight, so it bends with an erection. This operation releases the bend by cutting through the scar on the **short (inner) side**; this opens a gap, which is filled with a **graft** — a thin patch (such as a collagen patch, donor/animal tissue, or tissue from your own body). Because it lengthens the short side rather than shortening the long side, it **preserves penile length**.

It is used when:

- Your curve is **severe or complex** (for example, an hourglass or hinge shape)
- Keeping your **length** is important (plication would shorten too much)
- Your **erections are strong** enough to support this operation

What to Know

The advantage is that your **length is preserved** (sometimes slightly increased). The trade-off is a **higher chance of new or worsened erection problems** than with plication — because working on the scar can affect how the penis traps blood — so it is offered only when your erections are strong. **Numbness of the head** of the penis is common early on (the nerves are gently lifted during surgery) and usually recovers over 6–12 months. Most men get a straight erection for sex.

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.

Graft

A thin patch used to fill the gap after the scar is released — a collagen patch, donor/animal tissue, or tissue from your own body.

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 — often done at the same time if you are not already circumcised.

Penile rehabilitation

Using an erection pill and/or a vacuum device during healing to protect erections and length.

General anesthesia

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

WILL IT HURT? The surgery is done under general or spinal 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. This operation takes longer than plication (often 1.5–3 hours), and you may stay one night. A catheter is usually placed and removed the next morning.

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).
- Your Peyronie's should be **stable** (curve and pain settled for months), and your **erections are checked** beforehand — this surgery needs good erectile function.
- **Do not smoke**; any infection is treated first, and you'll get antibiotics. If you are not circumcised, a circumcision is often done at the same time.

Tell your team ahead of time if you:

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

What Happens During Surgery

- 1 You are asleep or numb under anesthesia; antibiotics are given.
- 2 An **erection is created with an injection** to show the curve; the skin is lifted and the nerves on top of the penis are gently moved aside.
- 3 The scar on the short side is **cut (and sometimes partly removed)** to release the bend, and the gap is patched with a **graft**; the result is checked and the skin closed.

After Surgery

- Expect **swelling, bruising, and soreness** for 1–2 weeks. **Numbness of the head** of the penis is common and usually recovers over months.
- A catheter is usually removed the morning after surgery.
- **Avoid sex for about 6–8 weeks** so the graft can heal.
- Your team will likely start **penile rehabilitation** — a low-dose erection pill and/or daily vacuum device — to protect erections and length.

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. This surgery releases the bend by cutting the scar on the short side and patching the gap with a graft — it **preserves length** and is used for severe or complex curves.
2. The trade-off is a **higher chance of erection problems** than plication, so it is offered only when erections are strong; early numbness of the head is common and usually recovers.
3. Your Peyronie's should be stable and erections checked first; don't smoke. Afterward, avoid sex ~6–8 weeks and follow penile rehabilitation. Call for fever, severe swelling, or trouble urinating.