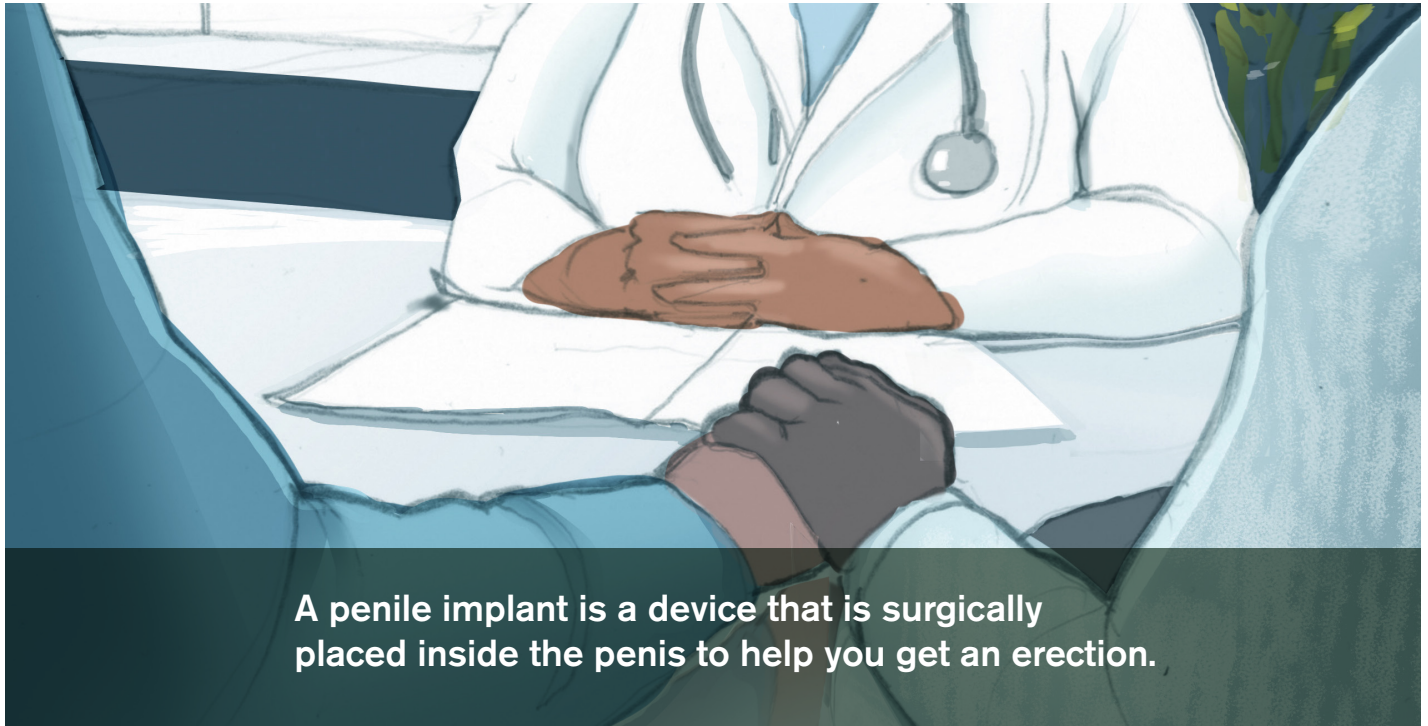


# Sexual Recovery

## Penile Implants



There are two different kinds of penile implants:

- Semi-rigid rod
- Inflatable implant

Each kind of penile implant works differently and has pros and cons. Your healthcare provider will help you pick the best type for you based on:

- Your age
- Your overall health
- Your risk of infection
- Your preference

### Why consider a penile implant?

Although the number of men who get implants is fairly small, implants have been successfully used for many years.

#### **Satisfaction rates are generally high and most men who get the implant say:**

- It improved their sex life
- It allows them to have penetrative sex

#### **Men who get implants:**

- Still have skin sensitivity in the penis
- Can still reach orgasm

#### **Who shouldn't get penile implants?**

Penile implants may not be right for you if you have:

- An infection (for example, ongoing urinary tract infections)
- Un-controlled diabetes
- Erection problems that are temporary

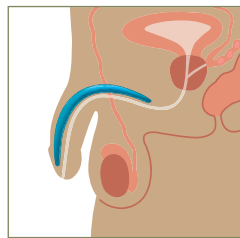
### Include your partner in the decision

If you have a partner, it is important to include them in the discussion and decision making about penile implants. Being sexually active with your implant will affect your partner as well as your relationship.



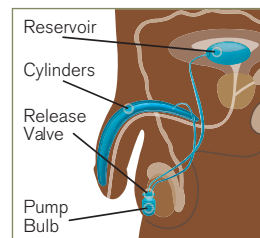
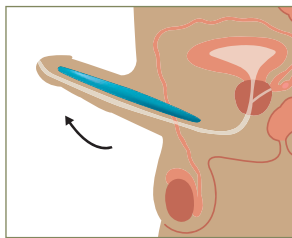
## Sexual Recovery: Penile Implants

### What are the different kinds of penile implants?



#### Semi-rigid rod

This penile implant is bent upwards for sex and toward the body for concealment under clothing.



#### Three-piece penile implant

This implant consists of inflatable cylinders inside the shaft of the penis, a fluid reservoir under the abdominal wall, and a pump inside the scrotum.

#### Non-inflatable implant (Semi-rigid rod)

##### Pros:

- Easy to implant
- No risk of mechanical breakdown
- Easy to use

##### Cons:

- Your penis will be firm all the time
- Can be difficult to hide erection under clothing

#### Inflatable Implant

##### Pros

- Mimics a natural erection: Your penis will be soft when the implant is deflated and firm when the implant is inflated.

##### Cons

- Has more parts than a non-inflatable implant so there is a higher risk of mechanical breakdown.
- May be harder to use than the semi-rigid rod for men who have arthritis in their hands.

### What are the risks?

Because penile implants involve surgery, men need to weigh the risks and benefits for themselves before deciding. Once a penile prosthesis is put in, you may lose your natural erection reflex. This means that if the prosthesis is removed, you will not be able to get a natural erection again.

Risks of penile implant surgery include:

#### Injury during surgery

- During surgery, it is possible to have injuries to your urethra, bladder, or other organs.

#### Infection after surgery

- Infection is possible after surgery. You may have higher risk of infection if you have a spinal cord injury or diabetes.

#### Implant problems

- For inflatable implants, you may be able to feel the fluid-filled reservoir after it is placed in your stomach area.

#### Rare problems

- In rare cases, penile implants can break. If that happens, you will need another surgery remove, fix or replace a broken implant.
- In some cases, an implant might wear away the skin from inside the penis. Rarely, an implant can break through the skin.

