

# Bend It Like.... **PEYRONIE?**



**Peyronie's Disease is a curvature of the penis. It was first described by a Frenchman, Francois Gigot de la Peyronie who described it in 1743. It may occur after damage to the penis (usually a buckling injury) or may occur spontaneously. It is not really a "disease" in the true sense of the word.**

It is the formation of scar tissue within the penis which can sometimes affect a man's ability to direct his urinary stream and may prevent a normal erection or may cause the erection to be bent. This may be in any direction and sometimes if severe may result in a "twist". This can also result in shortening of the penis.

As a result an erection may be painful and intercourse may cause pain for the man or his partner and sometimes is not possible at all.

Because it is made up of "scar" tissue it may get better by itself but this may take a year to happen as the tissue "matures".

Treatment is only needed if the condition prevents the ability to have intercourse or causes pain to the man or his partner.

Unfortunately there are no specific medications which have a significant ability to promise a "cure". There are many sites on the internet which offer promises which are usually unfulfilled. There do not appear to be any creams or specific mechanical straightening devices which offer a reliable, scientifically tested method of improvement despite the costs of these devices.

Some vitamins have been recommended in the past but recent testing has failed to

show significant benefit. Some injections of a substance into the scar tissue is sometimes effective but this requires a number of injections over many weeks and does not appear to be reliable.

So that leaves surgery. There are a number of operations which are usually carried out in day surgery where the penis can be straightened. There are various techniques. In some of them the scar tissue is removed and a "tissue graft" inserted but as healing takes place by the formation of scar tissue they may not always be effective. Another technique is to take a "tuck" in the side opposite the scarring rather like dress making so it is then straight. Occasionally, if the curvature is accompanied by an inability to get an erection, a penile prosthesis is necessary. This is an artificial erection device which is contained entirely in the body which can give an erection and straighten the penis at the same time.



**Dr Neil Gordon**  
Urologist  
Urological Surgeon at Cairns Urology  
M.B.B.S (Melb)  
F.R.C.S (Glasg) F.R.C.S Ed  
F.R.A.C.S., F.I.C.S



## Peyronie's Disease

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98 Spence Street  
Cairns, QLD 4870, Australia

PO Box 7787  
Cairns, QLD 4870, Australia

**P** (07) 4041 0700  
**F** (07) 4041 4007

[www.cryotherapy.com.au](http://www.cryotherapy.com.au)  
[www.cairns-urology.com.au](http://www.cairns-urology.com.au)  
[reception@cairns-urology.com.au](mailto:reception@cairns-urology.com.au)



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