(PD20-06) Prospective Analysis of Cultures from the Furlow Insertion Tool: A Possible Etiology for Penile Prosthesis Infections

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#### Disclosures

- Antares Pharma: Advisory board, speaker
- Coloplast: Advisory board, consultant
- Clarus Therapeutics: Advisory board, speaker
- Viome: Research grant primary investigator



# **Objectives**

- IPP infection rates in high volume surgeons
  <1% and 2-5% in diabetics.</li>
- We sought to assess whether inadequate cleaning and sterilization of the reusable Furlow inserter may represent one of the last etiologies of infection.



# **Furlow Instrument**

- Introduced by Dr. Furlow in 1978 and consists of two portions:
- Measuring sheath
- Inner plunger that is used to push the needle through the glans







 Prospective analysis of cultures of the Furlow Inserter used for IPP surgeries from 7 centers in the USA, Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Spain between May 1st and June 30th, 2019























Table 1. Instrument and culture information from 83 cultured Furlow Inserters	
Time of surgery	
First case	67 (80.7%)
Not first case	16 (19.3%)
Location of surgery	
Academic	62 (74.7%)
Non-academic	21 (25.3%)
Sterilization technique	
Autoclave	62 (74.7%)
STERAD (dry heat sterilization)	21(25.3%)
Median time from sterilization (range)	3 days (1-22)
Median age of device (range)	4 years (2-10)

Table 1. Instrument and culture information from 83 cultured Furlow Inserters	
Device presentation	
Assembled	4 (4.9%)
Disassembled	79 (95.1%)
External component inspection	
Clean	80 (96.4%)
Discolored/stains	3 (3.6%)
Internal component inspection	
Clean	81 (97.6%)
Discolored/stains	2 (2.4%)
Positive cultures	
Aerobic	2 (2.4%)
Anaerobic	0
Fungal	0



# Conclusions

- Improper cleaning and/or sterilization of the Furlow Insertion Instrument may represent a source of infection for patients undergoing PP implantation.
- Perhaps, a disposable Furlow inserter might offer the opportunity to reduce the risks of contamination associated with improper instrument handling and impact the rate of device infection.