

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910698378103321
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Titolo	Erectile dysfunction // Rany Shamloul, Anthony J. Bella
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[San Rafael, California] : , : Morgan & Claypool Life Sciences, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-61504-653-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (82 p.)
Collana	Colloquium Series on Integrated Systems Physiology: From Molecule to Function to Disease, , 2154-5626
Disciplina	616.692
Soggetti	Impotence Impotence - Treatment
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Part of: Colloquium digital library of life sciences. Series from website.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	1. Anatomy of the penis -- 1.1 Introduction -- 1.1.1 Skin and fascia -- 1.1.2 Tunica albuginea -- 1.1.3 Corpora cavernosa -- 1.1.4 Associated musculature -- 1.1.5 Penile vascular anatomy -- 1.1.6 Lymphatics -- 1.1.7 Innervation -- 1.2 The male urethra -- 1.3 Microscopic anatomy of the penis -- 1.3.1 Tunica albuginea -- 1.3.2 Corpora cavernosa ultrastructure, corpus spongiosum, and glans penis -- 1.3.3 Cavernous smooth muscle -- 2. General pathophysiology -- 2.1 Dopamine -- 2.2 Oxytocin -- 2.3 Adrenocorticotrophic hormones (ACTH) and related peptides -- 2.4 Nitric oxide (NO) -- 2.5 Serotonin -- 2.6 Opioid peptides -- 2.7 Prolactin -- 2.8 Sexual hormones -- 2.9 Control of cavernous smooth muscle function -- 2.9.1 Mechanism of smooth muscle contraction -- 2.9.2 Regulation of VSMC tone -- 2.10 Peripheral neurotransmitters -- 3. Diabetes and ED -- 3.1 Epidemiologic data -- 3.2 Pathophysiology -- 4. ED and cardiovascular disease -- 5. Drugs causing ED -- 5.1 Cardiovascular drugs and erectile function -- 5.2 Antihypertensive treatment and ED -- 5.3 Diuretics -- 5.3.1 [alpha]-adrenoceptor antagonists -- 5.3.2 Ace inhibitor -- 5.3.3 Calcium channel blockers -- 5.3.4 Lipid-lowering drugs (fibrates, statins) -- 5.4 Psychotropic medication -- 5.4.1 Antidepressants --

**Sommario/riassunto**

The understanding of the pathophysiology of erectile dysfunction (ED) has advanced significantly over the past 2 decades. In this ebook, we provide an in-depth analysis of the current knowledge of the pathophysiology of ED in order to provide the reader with an up-to-date and comprehensive understanding of the pathophysiology of ED, which is complex but fascinating. Intensive and intricate mechanisms govern the development of ED. These mechanisms involve complex interaction between vascular, hormonal and neural regulation. Current research on the central regulation of ED is key for the advancement of our understanding of this complex disease. Recent advances in our knowledge of the vascular mechanisms regulating penile erection led to appreciation of ED as an early symptom of cardiovascular disease. Major health concerns such as atherosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, hypertension and diabetes have become well integrated into the investigation of ED. Extensive research on the mechanisms involved in the regulation of penile erection have led to unparalleled advances in the understanding of general vascular regulation. However, many unknowns remain, which provides vast opportunities for future basic and clinical investigations.