postoperatively. The number of patients is too small and follow-up is too short to draw a solid conclusion; however, I wonder whether one of the causes of postvasectomy orchalgia could be perineural fibrosis of the paravasal nerves and whether resection of the lamina propria of the vas during routine vasectomies could prevent paravasal neuropathy as a possible cause of postvasectomy orchalgia.

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AUTHORS' RESPONSE

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We read with interest the suggestion by Dr Amid of routine resection of the paravasal nerves during vasectomy as a means to prevent post-vasectomy chronic orchalgia. Certainly, reports suggest decreased incidence of chronic pain following injection of local anaesthetic into the vas at the time of vasectomy¹ which would support his suggestion.

The patients treated by Dr Amid underwent meshplasty for hernia repair, with subsequent extensive fibrosis and foreign body reaction around the vas in the inguinal region as a consequence; leading to chronic orchalgia. However, such extensive foreign-body reaction rarely occurs in the scrotum as evidenced during vasectomy reversal. In addition, the paravasal nerves are intimately related to vascular structures (as seen in Fig. 2 of Dr Amid's letter). Routine resection then would considerably increase the risk of subsequent haematoma formation. It would thus be difficult to support this routine resection of paravasal structures in order to prevent chronic pain postvasectomy.

Reference

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LETTER

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A surgeon's or an athlete's foot

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Several methods of preventing other people borrowing theatre shoes have been suggested.^{1,2} There is a potential risk of transmission of infection when sharing shoes, and writing the day of use on shoes may increase this practice as people know when they can borrow them.

Recently, a colleague told me of her novel method of preventing people from borrowing theatre shoes. She simply warns people of the hazards of sharing shoes, by writing 'N.B. Athlete's Foot' on her shoes, and finds that a sufficient deterrent. Needless to say her shoes are always exactly where she left them.

PS The owner does not have athlete's foot!

References

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