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EVALUATION OF SPERMATIC CORD DENERVATION IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC TESTICULAR PAIN

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To evaluate the effectiveness of surgical spermatic cord denervation for the treatment of chronic testicular pain.

Over an 11 year period 13 patients (mean age 40 years, range 24-61 years) with severe, intractable, chronic testicular pain refractory to non-surgical management underwent spermatic cord denervation. In 1 patient the procedure was performed bilaterally, resulting in a total of 14 denervations. All patients had a prior thorough medical and psychiatry history in addition to physical examination and a scrotal ultrasound if necessary.

Mean follow up was 52 months (range 11-144 months). 9 of the 14 denervations (64%) led to a complete relief of pain (mean follow up 40 months). Another 2 (14%) resulted in partial pain relief ie: opiate analgesia requirements were significantly reduced. After the remaining 3 (22%) procedures, pain persisted at the same level post-operatively. The aetiology of the pain did not appear to significantly alter the operative outcome.

From these results we conclude that in selected patients with severe chronic testicular pain in whom conservative treatment has failed, spermatic cord denervation may be successful in alleviating their symptoms.