Sildenafil (Viagra™) A breakthrough in the management of an old problem or a risky drug.

Sir,

It is interesting to read the leading article and editorial comments on Sildenafil (Viagra™) in SMJ. To date, it was the firm opinion of almost all physicians, endocrinologists and sexologists alike that impotence or erectile dysfunction was a non-organic problem in most patients. Psychotherapy and anti-depressant medications were prescribed for these patients. Marital harmony and a sound general health were thought to be factors which would help treat impotence. People who had organic causes were given papaverine, yohimbine, alprostadil or prosthesis and their use was not unduly publicized. Patients used to feel a sense of shame in discussing impotence and there used to be a certain degree of secrecy about the treatment. Enter sildenafil citrate (Viagra) and everything changed. Because of media madness, everyone wants to "taste" the drug. Secrecy and shame have been given the back seat. Even people who never thought they were impotent are hunting for the drug. Use of Viagra is attaining status symbol. People of all age groups flock to my medical clinic to get an ECG and Cardiovascular check up. Absence of contraindication is being assumed as an indication to use the drug. People have paid up to $100 for one tablet. Doesn't it seem so similar to narcotic misuse? Or else, have most of the worlds men become impotent overnight. Perfection in coitus has no limits and can only be imagined. So people would pay big amounts to attain that "flight to heaven". And this could lead to the potential of gross misuse. Unless, of course, its availability to normal people is restricted.

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Physicians and Health Organization Management.

Sir,

I enjoyed reading the leading article "Physicians and Health Organization Management" by Dr English. However, when he refers to planning he means strategic development. When he describes the 8 steps of planning he means SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity and threat) analysis. He totally fails to mention stakeholders analysis which is vital in the development of any strategy, vision or in Dr English's language, planning. There is no mention of recognition, understanding of culture which successful leaders must recognize, harness, modify and develop at all times. He fails to recognize that more often than not the delivered strategy is far removed from the initial desired vision or strategy, due both to internal and external factors plus the changing environment. Dr English suggests a hierarchical management structure and "control", when in the 1990's the management style is of a flat structure, with empowerment of staff, working in teams with shared goals. What he describes as principles of "control" are outdated versions of "bench marking" and audit.

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Editorial Comment

We welcome more opinions from the readers about this topic.

References


Reply from Author

Dr English has changed his address and cannot be reached for a response.

References