Oral sildenafil (VIAGRA) in Non-responders to cavernous injection therapy
H.Derouet, B.Nolte, V.Rohde, M.Ziegler
Clinic of urology and pediatric urology, university of saarland, 66421 Homburg/Saar, Germany

Objective:
Self-administration of intracavernous injections are widely used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. In clinically non-responders to intracavernous injection therapy, therapeutic options are limited (vacuum pumps, penile prosthesis). The response of an oral treatment with sildenafil was tested in this selected group.

Material and Methods:
In 36 patients (23-79 years), non-responding to intracavernous injections in clinical testing, efficacy of oral sildenafil (100 mg) was tested at home. All patients had an erection < E4 in erection assessment scale after the intracavernous injection of prostaglandin E1, papaverin/phentolamin and papaverine/phentolamin/prostaglandin E1-mixture and were classified as non-responders to injection therapy due to clinical testing. The patients were advised to test 100 mg sildenafil at home two times at two different days.

Results:
18/36 patients (50%) reported a rigid erection (E4 n=13, E5 n=5), sufficient for sexual intercourse at least one time after oral sildenafil (fig.1,2,3). 8/36 were diabetic patients and even in these patients, 4/8 responded to oral sildenafil. In patients with clinical evidence of penile arteriopathy (n=5), response to oral sildenafil was bad (1/5).

Conclusion:
Oral sildenafil is a potent drug for the treatment of erectile dysfunction that can be successfully used even in patients clinically non-responding to intracavernous injection therapy. Oral testing of sildenafil is an important diagnostic information, that should be done before the the diagnosis of a so called “venous leakage” is given to the patient and invasive therapeutic procedure are proposed. Patients with venoocclusive dysfunction are not responding to intracavernous injections and to oral sildenafil.