

DECREASED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG A GROUP OF 47 FATHERS OF BOYS WITH HYPOSPADIAS

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Some studies have suggested an association between paternal subfertility and hypospadias although the association has not been systematically investigated. Against this background we conducted a case-control study to investigate male reproductive health and semen quality among a group of fathers of boys with hypospadias.

Fathers of boys with hypospadias were identified from a large ongoing case-control study of mothers of boys with hypospadias. So far 47 fathers have been investigated. The control group consisted of 349 partners of pregnant women previously investigated. All men delivered a semen sample, underwent a physical examination, and completed similar questionnaires.

After adjustment for duration of ejaculation of abstinence, fathers of the boys with hypospadias and fathers to normal children had a median sperm concentration of 50.0 x10⁶/ml (95% Confidential Interval/CI; 35.3-72.2) and 77.0 x10⁶ (95% CI; 64.7-91.9) respectively (p=0.02). The corresponding total sperm counts were 218 mill (95% CI; 152-313) and 311 mill (95% CI; 261-372) (p= 0.05).

11% of the fathers of the boys with hypospadias had hypospadias themselves (0% in the control group) and 17% had been operated for phimosis (4.6% in the control group).

4.2% of the fathers of the boys with hypospadias had been treated for cryptorchidism (4.6% in the control group) and 2% had been treated for testicular cancer (0.3% in the control group). 19% had previously been operated for inguinal hernia (6% in the control group). Overall 43% of the fathers of boys with hypospadias had one or more of these five conditions in contrast to 15% among the con-trols.

Our preliminary results indicate that the fathers of boys with hypospadias not only had an increased frequency of hypospadias, but also decreased semen quality. Genetic susceptibility as well as environmental factors may play a role in development of hypospadias.

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