Department of Urology

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1. Introduction

- The most dreaded complication of penile prosthesis (PP) implantation is device infection. Infection retardant coatings, changes in prep solutions and enhancement of surgical technique have successfully decreased the infection rates in high volume surgeons to <1% in primary implantations and 2-5% in diabetic patients.
- We sought to assess whether inadequate cleaning and sterilization of the reusable Furlow inserter may represent one of the last etiologies of infection in PP patients.

2. Methods

- We performed a prospective analysis of cultures of the Furlow Inserter used for PP surgeries from 7 centers between May 1st and June 30th, 2019.
- Once the Furlow was received for surgery, the surgical team inspected the device for assembly status (disassembled or not) and the presence of visible stains, pieces of tissue or discoloration on either the interior of the barrel or the plunger.
- Swab aerobic and anaerobic bacterial and fungal cultures were then obtained from the internal component, after removal from the external component if assembled, and after introduction and immediate removal from the external component if disassembled.

Prospective Analysis of Cultures from the Furlow Insertion Tool: a Possible Etiology for Penile Prosthesis Infections

Table 1. Instrument and cultu

Furlow

Time of surgery First case Not first case Location of surgery Academic Non-academic **Sterilization technique** Autoclave **STERAD (dry heat sterilization)** Median time from sterilization Median age of device (range) **Device presentation** Assembled Disassembled **External component inspection** Clean **Discolored/stains** Internal component inspection Clean **Discolored/stains Positive cultures** Aerobic Anaerobic Fungal

ure infor v Inserte	mation from 83 cultured	
	67 (80.7%) 16 (19.3%)	
	62 (74.7%) 21 (25.3%)	Furlow as
	62 (74.7%) 21(25.3%)	
(range)	3 days (1-22) 4 years (2-10)	
	4 (4.9%) 79 (95.1%)	
	80 (96.4%)	Internal o inserted th
	3 (3.6%)	• Improper o
	81 (97.6%) 2 (2.4%)	Insertion I patients u
	2 (2.4%) 0 0	 Perhaps, a opportunit with improvide





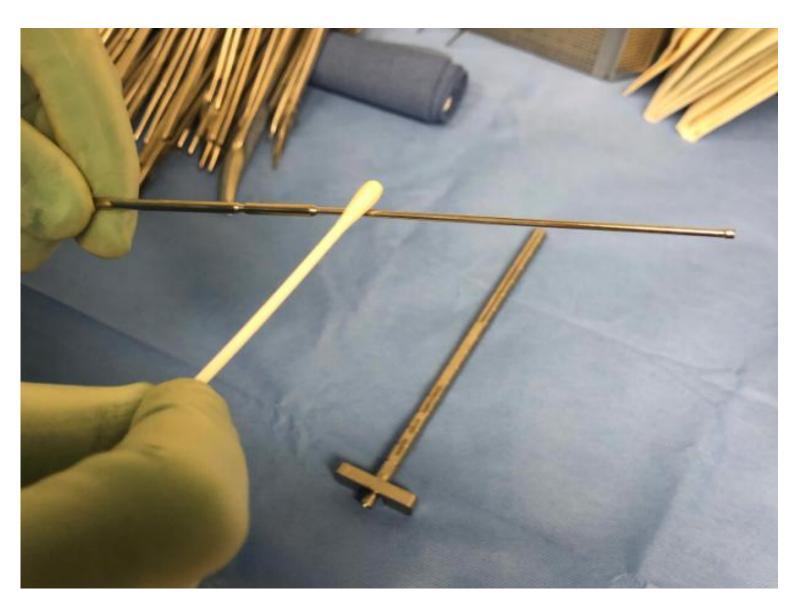
assembled



Furlow disassembled



component then removed



Culture swab of internal component

4. Conclusions

cleaning and/or sterilization of the Furlow Instrument may represent a source of infection for undergoing PP implantation.

a disposable Furlow inserter might offer the ity to reduce the risks of contamination associated with improper instrument handling and impact the rate of device infection.

