

## RECTAL INJURY IN RADICAL PERINEAL PROSTATECTOMY

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**Objective:** To report our experience in treating patients with rectal injury with radical perineal prostatectomy.

**Methods:** Medical charts of 176 patients submitted to radical perineal prostatectomy from 1996 to 2005 were reviewed to identify rectal problems. A review of rectal injury in prostatectomy is provided.

**Results:** Of 176 patients who underwent radical perineal prostatectomy, 10 (5.7%) had rectal injury and 4 (2.3%) presented rectal fistula. Two (1.1%) patients were submitted to

colostomy. We discuss how to avoid and treat the complications.

**Conclusions:** There is a real risk of rectal injury during radical perineal prostatectomy, particularly during the learning period or if the approach is not often performed. Fistula might occur, but colostomy is actually unnecessary and rare. A better understanding of the perineal anatomy and knowledge about the technique is recommended before practicing radical perineal prostatectomy.

**Key words:** anal fistula, perineal prostatectomy, prostate cancer, rectal fistula, rectal injury.