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PP089

FREE CATHETER SCLEROEMBOLIZATION VERSUS OCCLUDING BALLOON SCLEROEMBOLIZATION IN THE TREATMENT OF MALE VARICOCELE

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The aim of this study was to compare the technical success evaluated by the total occlusion of the left spermatic vein achieved with free catheter or with occluding balloon injection of sclerosant. From June 2011 to June 2012, 60 patients were treated with scleroembolization for left spermatic vein varicocele. Thirty patients (group A) underwent scleroembolization by angiographic diagnostic catheter (free catheter technique), whereas the other 30 (group B) were treated by means of an occluding balloon. In case of incomplete occlusion of the left spermatic vein, the procedure was completed with coils insertion. Patients of group A required the insertion of coils in 9 cases (26,6%) to complete the embolization, whereas this was required in 4 patients of the group B (6.6%). In the latter group, the rupture of the left spermatic vein was reported in 6 patients with contrast extravasation (20%). In this case, the procedure was completed only with sclerosant because the occluding balloon, positioned distally to the vessel tear, obviating any retrograde extravasation of sclerosant. These findings suggest that the injection of sclerosant with the insertion of an occluding balloon requires the implantation of a coil in a significantly lower number of patients with left spermatic vein varicocele.

PP090

ASSESSMENT OF THE INFLUENCE OF HIGH DIOXIN EXPOSURE ON SPERM QUALITY; AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY.

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The aim of this study is to evaluate the association of the air pollutant emitted from industry of Taranto, on male fertility, by seminal liquid. Patients attending our laboratory (n=316) provided semen samples and, from the case-study, we have excluded men with clinical problems (i.e., varicocele, cancer, vasectomy). Basing on data obtained from ARPA Puglia, that constantly monitors the values of different air pollutant in the air, we have focused on exposure to dioxin and distributed the patients in 3 groups, based by distance from the center of the city (Taranto city, Taranto province and other provinces). Various studies have, in fact, demonstrated a correlation between high levels of dioxin and health diseases both in experimental animals and in humans.

We have analyzed the differences in terms of sperm concentration, morphology, DNA fragmentation and Oxidative Stress. Data from the tests have shown no statistically decrements in sperm outcomes in men with the highest exposure to dioxin (city), in comparison with the other groups, for concentration and morphology ($p > 0.05$). First data coming from NBT treatment and TUNEL assay suggest an increase in percentage of Oxidative stress and DNA fragmentation in samples coming from the city comparing those coming from the other two groups.

At the end of this first screening on male fertility in association with the direct annual exposure to levels of dioxins (DIOX (TCDDe) \approx 120 g/year), we can hypothesize that a simple test on the seminal liquid it is not enough to estimate the real consequences on man reproductive system. In consideration of that, we will proceed with the experiments on health of human spermatozoa with the purpose to confirm the data obtained so far.