

Urology department

# Should I have a penile prosthesis, and which one should I choose?

## Introduction

Deciding whether or not to have a penile implant and between a malleable or an inflatable penile prosthesis can seem rather daunting.

Your surgeon and nurse specialist will work with you to try and understand your needs and expectations. It is important that you are comfortable with your decision as a penile prosthesis is not reversible. Although it is possible to change from one type of implant to the other, your first operation is usually the best and patients often find subsequent changes lead to complications. We would therefore advise that you take as much time as you need to make your decision and avoid rushing into your decision.

This information leaflet should be read alongside The Christie information leaflets on malleable penile prostheses and inflatable penile prostheses to help you decide which is best for you.

## What are the advantages and disadvantages of malleable and inflatable penile prostheses?

Below is a table which covers some of the main advantages and disadvantages between the two types of implant:

	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Malleable penile prosthesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a low chance of malfunction due to the small number of parts</li> <li>• Is easy to use</li> <li>• Does not require a reservoir or pump to be inserted</li> <li>• Simpler to insert and shorter operative time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results in a penis that is always slightly rigid</li> <li>• Can be difficult to conceal under clothing</li> </ul>
<b>Inflatable penile prosthesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates an erection that is more natural</li> <li>• Comparatively easier to hide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has more parts that could malfunction than does any other implant</li> <li>• Requires a reservoir inside the abdomen and a pump in the scrotum</li> <li>• Can need two incisions to insert</li> </ul>



## What are the differences between a Boston Scientific inflatable penile prosthesis (AMS700) and a Coloplast inflatable penile prosthesis (Coloplast Titan OTR)?

Coloplast and Boston Scientific (previously known as AMS) are the two companies which supply the inflatable penile prostheses. There are currently no other companies making inflatable penile prostheses.

Both implants have proven track records in terms of safety, reliability and patient satisfaction. The infection risks with the two implants are the same.

They are very similar. However there are some subtle differences which you may wish to consider.

	Boston Scientific AMS 700™	Coloplast Titan® OTR
<b>When deflated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cylinders on the AMS 700 are a lot softer and so some patients feel that it gives a more natural feeling penis when deflated</li> <li>Possibly more comfortable when deflated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cylinders are noticeably harder when deflated with the Titan OTR. This can lead to some visible deformity as well as edges where the implant bends in the penis</li> </ul>
<b>When inflated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some patients may feel that the implant is not as rigid when inflated compared with the Titan OTR. In men with large penises this can be more pronounced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be more rigid when inflated</li> </ul>
<b>The pump</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good tactile feedback with large ridges in the pump</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Might find it quicker to inflate</li> </ul>
<b>The release button</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The button is quite large and so easier to locate and maybe more suitable for men with reduced sensation or co-ordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The release button is smaller and less pronounced so maybe more difficult to locate for some patients</li> <li>The pump and release button are smaller and so more concealable</li> </ul>

## What questions should I be thinking of when making my decision?

- How will potential partners view my implant?
- If you have a partner, what do they think of an implant and will they support my decision?
- Will an implant have a real positive impact on my relationships?
- Am I comfortable having surgery and the associated risks to regain my erections?
- If I get a complication, how will I feel and will I be able to cope with the consequences?
- Have I tried all other options?
- Am I comfortable with my surgeon and surgical team?
- Is concealability important to me and will an implant affect things I like to do? For instance, if I go swimming, will my implant be an issue?
- How often will I use my implant?
- Am I willing to accept a slightly higher risk of infection and device failure over a more realistic erection?
- What does my surgical team believe is the best option for me?
- How would I feel knowing that after 10 years my implant may need to be changed?
- Will an implant prevent me from doing my job?



If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for  
urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
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