Does Penis Size Matter? Or, Does It Just Matter How It Is Measured?

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Abstract (300 word limit)

Introduction: There is no standardized method of penis measurement. Varying methods can yield drastically different results; however, literature rarely elaborates on measurement method. Though penis length is often discussed within and beyond healthcare, no studies have been performed on the true variety of measurement method. Penis length is a major concern of patients undergoing penile prosthesis surgery.

Purpose: To determine the methods by which a penis can be measured to better manage patient expectations after prosthetics surgery and move toward a standard measuring method.

Method: Literature review was performed to analyze penile measurement techniques. Content analysis of Reddit user comments regarding their techniques was performed to inform a survey accompanied by explanatory imaging asking Reddit users to vote on the most common discrepancies identified in our analysis: 1. Have you ever measured your penis?, 2. Where do you measure? (top/side/bottom), 3. When do you measure? (hard/soft).

Results: 22 responses were collected on Reddit thus far and responses continue to be collected. **100% (22)** of respondents have measured their penis. **90.9% (20)** of respondents measured the dorsal aspect of their penis. **9.09% (3)** of respondents measured the ventral aspect of their penis. **4.55% (2)** of respondents measured the lateral aspect of their penis. **95.45% (21)** of respondents measured while erect. **4.55% (2)** of respondents measured while erect and while flaccid (Figure 1)

Conclusions: To our knowledge, this study is the first to survey men regarding whether they have previously measured their penis as well as their method of measurement. This is a step towards developing a standardized method of penis measurement which will aid urologists in managing expectations of penile length status post prosthesis implantation. We conclude that the majority of men have measured their penis, and they most likely measured the ventral aspect of their penis while erect.

Image

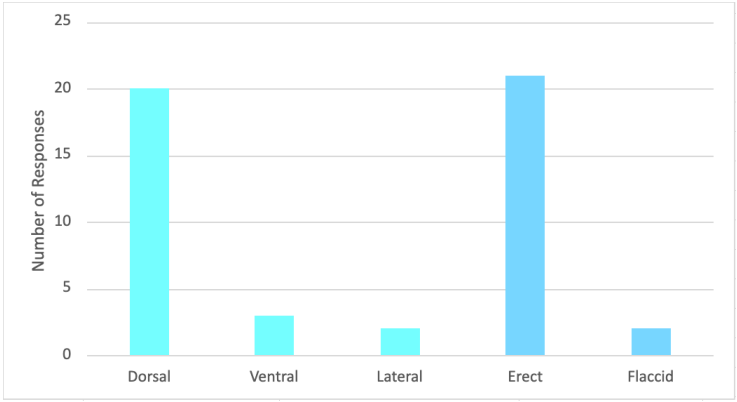


Figure 1. Reddit Responses
Number of responses with answers to the poll regarding location and hardness.

Recent Publications

1. Ure I, Ozen A, Can C. Life quality change after inflatable penile prosthesis implantation. *Aging Male*. 2020;23(5):362-368. Accessed June 22, 2022. https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib&db=s3h&AN=149940922&site=eds-live&scope=site
2. Foresta C, Valente U, Nisio AD, et al. Anogenital distance is associated with genital measures and seminal parameters but not anthropometrics in a large cohort of young adult men. *Human Reproduction*. 2018;33(9):1628-1635. doi:10.1093/humrep/dey249
3. Akyüz O. A new perspective on penis length measurement in children: How healthy are the results obtained with the current techniques? *Andrologia*. 2020;52(11):1-5. doi:10.1111/and.13864
4. Söylemez H, Atar M, Sancaktutar AA, Penbegül N, Bozkurt Y, Onem K. Relationship between penile size and somatometric parameters in 2276 healthy young men. *International journal of impotence research*. 2012;24(3):126-129. doi:10.1038/ijir.2011.53
5. Nguyen Hoai B, Pham Minh Q, Nguyen Cao T, Sansone A, Colonnello E, Jannini EA. Data from 14,597 penile measurements of vietnamese men. *Andrology*. 2021;9(3):906-915. doi:10.1111/andr.12978
6. Takure AO. Penile length of men attending urology outpatient clinic in Southwest Nigeria. *Pan African Medical Journal*. 2021;39:1-5. doi:10.11604/pamj.2021.39.155.21733



Madeline Snipes is a third year medical student at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. She is incredibly excited to be pursuing a career in urology. Her primary research interests lie in male sexual dysfunction as well as the intersection of mental health and urology. Additionally, she is passionate about sex education reform in order to promote education by trained educators who cover topics including healthy relationships, gender identity, body image, birth control, and sexually transmitted infections, among other topics.

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