



## Case Report

# Spontaneous breakage of malleable penile prosthesis

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**The reported complications of malleable penile prosthesis include infection, erosion and chronic pain.<sup>1</sup> We report the first two cases of bilateral breakage of malleable penile prosthesis.**

**Keywords:** impotence; malleable penile prosthesis; complication

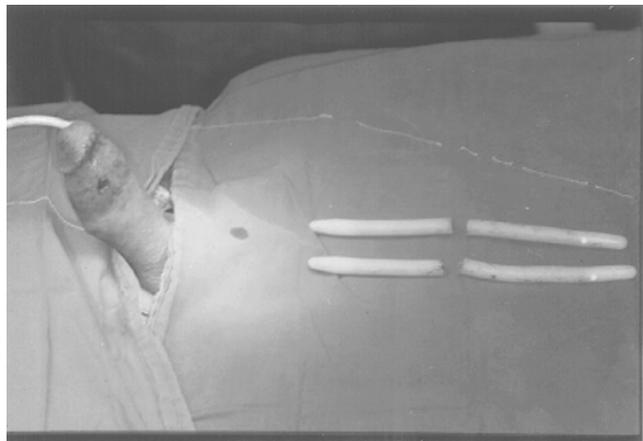
### Case 1

In 1989, a 41 year-old-man with organic impotence due to corporeal veno-occlusive dysfunction was treated with AMS Malleable 600 penile prosthesis implantation. In 1994 he complained of a decrease in penile rigidity and complete breakage of bilateral rods was found (Figure 1). In the operative field, several stainless-steel wire fragments were found around the breakage site and we removed them along with the bilateral rods. We then implanted an AMS 700 CXM 3-piece inflatable penile prosthesis. This prosthesis would not inflate when he revisited us in 1997 and we found several remnant wire fragments on plain X-ray film. The remnant wire fragments could not be found out in the operative field and we removed the AMS 700 CXM prosthesis cylinders and another AMS Malleable 600 penile prosthesis was implanted.

### Case 2

In 1991, a 72 year-old-man with organic impotence due to diabetes mellitus had an AMS Malleable 600 penile prosthesis implantation. In 1997 he complained of a decrease in penile rigidity, but we found intact bilateral rods on palpation and we planned to exchange the previous rods for an AMS 700 CXM 3-piece inflatable penile prosthesis. On the operative field the rods showed incomplete breakage (Figure 2) and we also found several wire fragments at the site of breakage. After removal of rods and wire fragments, we tried to find the remaining wire fragments noted on operative plain X-ray film, but

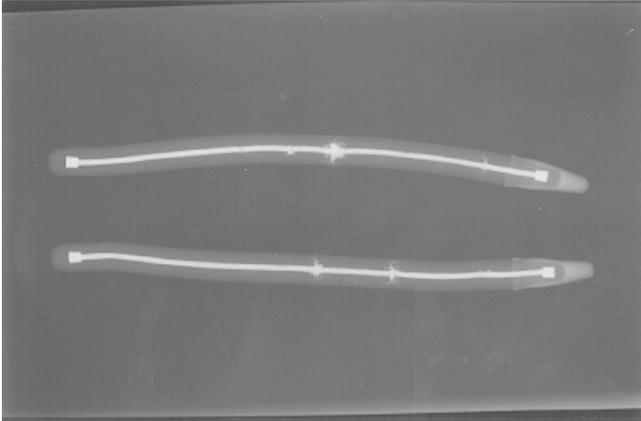
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**Figure 1** Complete breakage of bilateral rods (Case 1).



**Figure 2** On operative field the rods showed incomplete breakage (Case 2).



**Figure 3** Postoperative X-ray film on rods shows bilateral multiple incomplete breakage of central metal core (Case 2).

failed to find them. We implanted another AMS Malleable 600 penile prosthesis. Postoperative X-ray film of the rods showed bilateral multiple incomplete breakage of the central metal core (Figure 3).

## Discussion

Semi-rigid penile prosthesis has limitations in looking natural in the flaccid condition, but can be

chosen for the advantages of adequate axial rigidity, low mechanical failure rate, relative ease of surgical implantation and cost factor. Also the patient can manipulate the prosthesis without difficulty in activating and deactivating a mechanical or an inflatable device.<sup>2</sup>

Reported complications of malleable penile prosthesis include infection, erosion and chronic pain.<sup>3</sup> But in these two cases, semi-rigid penile prosthesis also has long term mechanical failure complications especially at the most frequent hinged portion with central metal core fragmentation.

To our knowledge, these are the first two reported cases of bilateral breakage of malleable penile prosthesis, the former (Case 1) presented 62 months and the latter (Case 2) 78 months after penile prosthesis implantation.

## References

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