

# DRUGS AND DEVICES FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

There are a number of drugs, devices, and implants that can help men and their partners overcome erectile dysfunction. The table below can help you to compare these options.

DRUG NAME	MAXIMUM USAGE OR DOSE	TIME IT TAKES TO ACT	HOW LONG EFFECTS LAST
Alprostadil penile injection (Caverject, Caverject Impulse, Edex)	May be used up to three times a week at effective dose	5–20 minutes	1 hour
Alprostadil urethral suppository (MUSE)	May be used up to twice a day at effective dose	5–10 minutes	30–60 minutes
Sildenafil (Viagra)	100 mg daily	½–2 hours (median: 1 hour)	4 hours
Tadalafil (Cialis)	20 mg daily; 5 mg per day for once-daily version	½–6 hours (median: 2 hours)	36 hours
Vardenafil (Levitra)	20 mg daily	½–2 hours (median: 1 hour)	4 hours

DEVICE TYPE	TIME IT TAKES TO BE EFFECTIVE	HOW LONG THE DEVICE CAN BE USED AT ANY ONE TIME	MAXIMUM USAGE
Constriction band	varies	Must be removed within 30 minutes	Allow at least an hour between applications
Vacuum device with constriction band	minutes	Constriction band must be removed within 30 minutes	Allow at least an hour between applications
Penile splint	minutes	no limit	no limit
Surgical implant	minutes	no limit	no limit

*Diabetes Self-Management*, “Say Yes to Intimacy” by Donna Rice, BSN, RN, CDE

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