

## Correspondence

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### **Pattern of erectile dysfunction in Jeddah City**

Dear Sir,

I read with some interest the article of Al-Helali et al on the Pattern of Erectile Dysfunction (ED) in Jeddah City.<sup>1</sup> I note that the paper only presented data with mean (+/- standard deviation (SD)) and percentages of the sample in statistical terms, I wished more simple statistical analysis was carried out, such as correlations. Furthermore, that authors stated that "this would explain the significant positive correlation between the duration of smoking and the severity of ED in the present study". While in fact they used statistical terminology there is no such data. There has been no correlation in the text presented, let alone positive or significant. I wish there were more analysis to strengthen the discussion. I also wish there was more discussion about the psychological variables (they mention it too briefly), as there has been a considerable amount of work carried out in this area.

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### *Reply from the Author*

Dear Sir,

In reply to the correspondence of Dr. Al-Eithan, I would like to extend my appreciation for his interest in my paper. I do agree with Dr. Al-Eithan that the results were presented in a very primitive manner. However, this paper was submitted as a prior publication to a secondary paper entitled "Effect of Erectile Dysfunction on the Quality of Life", accepted for publication in the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal, EMHJ (WHO) 2000; Volume 6, Issue 3. A significant correlation between the duration of smoking and severity of ED was evidenced in this study. However, it should have been referred to in the result's section. Regarding the psychological aspect of ED, I would like to assure Dr. Al-Eithan that this aspect was fully described in the above mentioned secondary publication.

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### *References*

1. Al-Helali NS, Abolfotouh MA, Ghanem HM. Pattern of erectile dysfunction in Jeddah City. Saudi Med J 2001; 22: 34-38.