Emergency management of paraphimosis

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Objectives: To review the treatment modalities available for paraphimosis, with special emphasis on those applicable to the emergency department. Data source: Relevant medical literature was searched through MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and Cochrane Database. Manual search was performed in books on Urology, General Surgery and Emergency Medicine available in the Hospital Library. Further information was obtained through the Internet at <www.infoseek.com>. References cited in articles were also retrieved. Study selection: Key words for the literature, Internet and textbook search were 'paraphimosis' and 'treatment'. All available years of study were reviewed. Data extraction: Relevant full text articles were obtained through the hospital library network. Original articles, review papers, medical practice, case reports, and relevant book chapters were reviewed. Data synthesis: There were no prospective, randomized, controlled studies available. The majority were case series and expert experience or opinions only. Currently, a multitude of non-invasive and invasive treatment options are available, including manual reduction, help of non-crushing tissue forceps, puncture technique and dorsal slit. Conclusion: All treatment methods are within the capability of the emergency physician. Hospitalization should rarely be required, unless there are serious complications. (Hong Kong j.emerg.med. 2003;10:xx-xx)

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