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Editorial Comment on: “Machinery penile injuries associated with traditional trousers of the Yorubas of south-western Nigeria: A consideration for proper work clothes”

Dirk Schultheiss, MD

Professor of Urology, Department of Urology, Protestant Hospital, Giessen, Germany

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This article nicely depicts two rather rare examples of genital laceration and degloving trauma to the penis produced by modern machines in cases of inadequate clothing. Mobility and flexibility of the penis can be of advantage to avoid more severe trauma to the underlying structures, i.e. the urethra and the corpora cavernosa. As penile skin is well vascularized and elastic there is a high potential for recovery and good surgical repair outcome. In cases of severe penile skin loss a surgeon inexperienced in plastic surgery may perform “first aid” intervention by burying the denuded penile shaft under intact scrotal skin. A second stage reconstructive procedure can later be performed under perfect circumstances and after overcoming problems of wound contamination and infection.

The comparison with trouser zipper injuries to the penis or scrotum is a valuable addition to this topic. This kind of trauma is obviously more frequent, although less dramatic, and can easily be avoided by any kind of underwear. Slip underpants attaching the genitals more closely to the body may have also been advantageous in the two described case reports. This provides another argument against wearing boxer shorts, which is also not favoured by urologists in patients with epididymitis, varicocele, or chronic testicular pain.

E-mail address: dirk.schultheiss@urologie-giessen.de

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