

## Local Allergic Reaction to the Implant

Very rarely, a patient will develop local zone of redness (3-8 cm) and itching at the site of the testosterone implant. There is minimal or no tenderness and no other sign of infection. Local inflammation may be a risk factor for extrusion, i.e., the pellet working it's way out through the incision.

Pellets are made of up testosterone, stearic acid and PVP (povidone). Patients may react to the PVP. You may request implants be compounded without PVP.

Many patients who develop a local reaction to the implant have low cortisol levels and on further questioning, often have symptoms of adrenal insufficiency.

Recommendations:

- Benedryl 25-50 mg every 6 hours as needed
- Check am and pm salivary cortisol levels PRIOR to beginning hydrocortisone therapy.
  - Check for other symptoms of cortisol deficiency
- Begin therapy with hydrocortisone (10 mg BID) with or without benedryl.
- If the itching and redness do not respond to hydrocortisone, a **medrol dose pack** may be prescribed.
- Implants are not removed.
- If there is any question of infection, begin Keflex.
- Request implants without povidone (PVP).
- A low dose of hydrocortisone pellet implants may be used to prevent the local inflammatory reaction, which can prevent extrusion of future implants.