

## What's Up in Urology Journal, Autumn 2009?

*Urol J. 2009;6:309.*  
*www.uj.unrc.ir*

*Urology for People* is a section in the *Urology Journal* for providing people with a summary of what is published in this journal and describing urological entities in a simple language. The Persian translation of this article is available from [www.uj.unrc.ir](http://www.uj.unrc.ir).

**Important Note.** The findings in medical papers are usually not directly applicable in clinical practice and patients should consult their physicians before any utilization of the results of medical studies.

### BLADDER MUSCLE CELLS CULTURE

Modern medicine has stepped into the area of re-building the impaired organs of the body. For instance, scientists try to build a new bladder for patients who have lost their bladder or part of it because of diseases, surgeries, injuries, etc. Culture of the cells is one way to achieve a complete intact tissue. Dr Sharifiaghdas and her Iranian colleagues are experts in this area, and in their recent article, they described the growth of muscle cells of the bladder of mice on a natural matrix. Culture of cells needs a matrix on which new cells can be fed and grow. There are artificial matrixes and also natural ones. Dr Sharifiaghdas tried the amnion, the membrane around the fetus in mother's womb, as a matrix. She reported successful growth of cells on the amnion which was more promising than their growth on other matrixes. These basic research projects are hoped to be the basis of the near future of a change in the paradigm of medical treatment.

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### LAPAROSCOPY FOR LARGE TUMORS

Laparoscopy has been popularized in the world and made more tolerable the nightmare of pain, staying in bed, infections, and large scars after surgeries. Instead of the surgeons' hands, delicate instruments are inserted into the body's cavities for the operation. Therefore, there is no need to make large incisions on the body. But, for large tumors, handling this method of surgery is very difficult that many surgeons prefer to do their own conventional operations. Some experienced pioneer surgeons, however, take the risk of

approaching larger and larger tumors and expand their limitations in laparoscopy. Dr Sharma and his colleagues in India did so for tumors of the adrenal gland, a gland on the top of the kidneys, which were larger than 5 cm in diameter (7 cm on average). They reported that with enough care and experience, these tumors can be removed by laparoscopy, as well.

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### DO ALL MEN BENEFIT FROM VIAGRA AND ITS FRIENDS?

Viagra is now a well-known drug that effectively solves the erectile problem of men. However, there are some men whose problem cannot be resolved even with the maximum allowed doses of Viagra and a newer drug of this family, called vardenafil. Physicians have to discuss other treatments in this step, such as using injections, prosthesis, or vacuum devices. The most recently released drug of this kind, tadalafil (known as Cialis), is more effective than its older generation. So, the physician may offer Cialis to men whose treatment has failed. A group of researchers from Turkey tested this hypothesis that Cialis can help men to gain proper erection for intercourse, if other similar drugs have failed. They prescribed Cialis for men who did not benefit from sildenafil (Viagra) and vardenafil. However, this new drugs was not effective either. So the research team recommended that changing the drug may not be helpful and the physician may have to discuss other options with the patient.

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