

### *The costs of prostatitis*

enormous. Extrapolations of these specific costs, based on the estimated number of patients in the USA alone, would reach hundreds of millions and perhaps even billions of dollars per year in that country alone. Economic costs associated with the time off work, disability and loss of personal productivity would significantly increase those estimated costs. Prostatitis is a major socioeconomic burden on our society.

### The quality of life of prostatitis patients

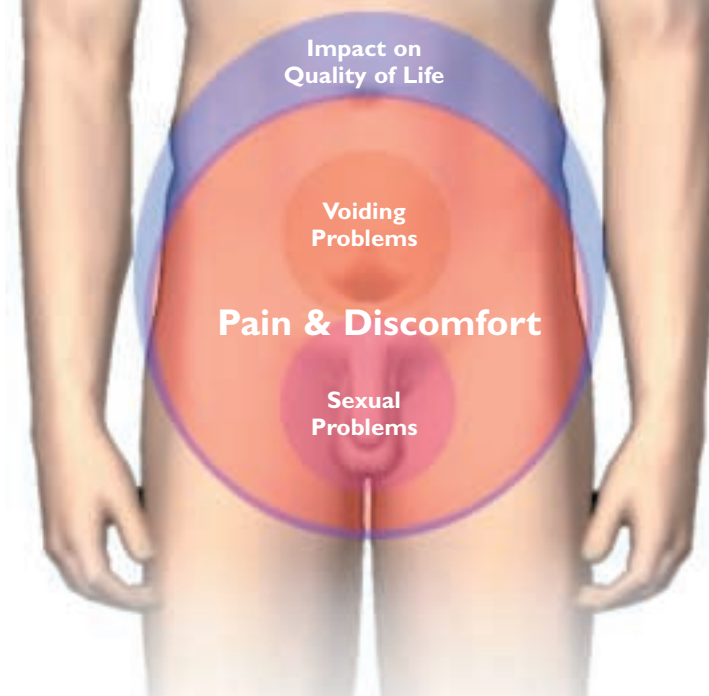
The effect of this particular disease, syndrome or constellation of symptoms on a patient's quality of life can be accurately estimated and compared to other diseases for which quality of life and impact have been determined. When such comparisons are made, it becomes evident that

the quality of life of a patient diagnosed with chronic prostatitis is dismal. It is comparable to patients who have just had an acute myocardial infarction, or suffer from unstable angina, active Crohn's disease, congestive heart failure or severe diabetes mellitus. It appears the symptoms associated with prostatitis affect both the physical and mental aspects of the patient's quality of life, but the mental health impact is more profound. Recent studies have confirmed that prostatitis patients spend a significant amount of their waking hours thinking about their condition. These studies have also confirmed that the symptoms prevent the patients from doing the normal day-to-day activities that they would like to do. Very few patients diagnosed with chronic prostatitis are happy with their quality of life. It is very evident that patients with prostatitis do not have an enviable quality of life.

## KEY POINTS

### The Prostatitis Patient

- 11-14% of men have had a current or previous diagnosis of prostatitis
- 2-6% of men experience at least mild to moderate prostatitis-like symptoms at any particular time
- prostatitis represents a major socioeconomic burden
- the quality of life of a patient diagnosed with chronic prostatitis is dismal



The inter-related domains of pain, disturbed voiding, sexual difficulties and impact on quality of life that make up the life experience of a patient with chronic prostatitis