

The standard diagnostic and treatment plans

supplements and plant extracts. Surveys have confirmed that urologists are not happy with this management scenario. Most realize that, compared with diagnostic steps they take in other urologic diseases, their evaluation and categorization of prostatitis patients is poor. Most will also concede that empiric treatment, practiced by the majority of urologists, is ill-conceived and in many instances ineffective. The level of frustration among urologists dealing with prostatitis patients is evident. Given a choice, many urologists would decline to see these patients and many refuse to see patients again once they fail their initial prescription. Urologists have rated prostatitis as one of the most difficult and frustrating disease entities that they manage.

KEYPOINTS

The Physician Who Treats Prostatitis

- prostatitis is the most common urologic diagnosis made in men under 50
- prostatitis diagnoses present 8% of patients' visits to urologists
- the average North American urologist sees 100-150 prostatitis patients per year
- physicians concede that empiric therapy is ill-conceived and usually ineffective
- urologists have rated prostatitis as the most difficult and frustrating condition that they manage



Frustrated, confused physicians interact with angry, frustrated patients