

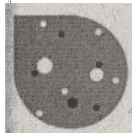
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SEX

Men who use erectile drugs have more S.T.D.'s, study said



Men who take drugs for erectile dysfunction have more sexually transmitted diseases than non-users, a study finds. It is not that the drugs contribute to the diseases, the researchers emphasized. Men who used the drugs had almost three times the rate of sexually transmitted diseases as non-users, both before starting and one year after starting a prescription. They were found to be at particularly high risk for H.I.V. and for chlamydia. Using data from a private insurance company, the study followed 33,968 men who had been prescribed such a drug between 1997 and 2006, as well as more than 1 million men who had never used the drugs. "One implication is that people who are using drugs like Viagra clearly do not have problems having sex in the first place," said Dr. Anupam B. Jena, the lead author of the study, which was published in the July 6 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. **RONI CARYN RABIN**