

## [Galien. Des lieux affectés - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

Coteb028\_f0600

SourceBoite\_028-6-chem | Galien.

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

### Références éditoriales

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Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 22/03/2021 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

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much sperm and, therefore, stimulate the desire for intercourse. This confirms my statement, which I made a short time ago, that abstinence from intercourse occasionally induces priapism. This occurs in persons who have much sperm but remain continent at the same time, contrary to their usual behavior. By lack of much exercise these patients fail to get rid of an excess of blood, particularly when they do not refrain from erotic ideas. Likewise do persons suffer who are chaste by nature and accustomed to self-control over a long time but who indulge in [erotic] imaginations in order to stimulate themselves by such spectacles and memories.

The condition of the genital organs of these patients is quite contrary to that of others who never indulge in erotic ideas (K 451). A friend of mine, who chose to completely refrain from intercourse contrary to his previous habits, developed such an inflated swelling of his penis that he felt the need to consult me about his symptoms. He said that he was puzzled since athletes in perfect physical condition had a shrivelled and collapsed penis, but he had the opposite condition, although he had abstained from sexual activity. I advised him to excrete the accumulated semen but afterwards to refrain completely from [erotic] spectacles, nor to tell stories or recall memories which could stimulate his sexual desire.

In those persons, who from early youth trained themselves in athletics and singing but remained entirely inexperienced in erotics and refrained from every thought and impression of it, the penis becomes small and shriveled as in old men. The same occurs in other people who as adolescents indulge for the first time in much venery. The blood vessels of their sexual organs become so dilated that their blood flows profusely in the vessels of these organs and increases ability and urge for intercourse. In this sense (K 452) *Plato* wrote about all [natural] faculties:

'Rest enfeebles but exercise of the proper activities increases their strength.'

Equally the breasts of women who never become pregnant remain atrophic; but the breasts of those who are feeding their children after delivery become large and continue producing milk as long as they nurse their children; but soon after they stop feeding, the production of milk in the breast ceases.

When we examine everything beforehand and distinguish the causes which produce the diseases of each affected organ, we will obtain a starting point for therapy. But presently is not the right time for further study. Since the proposed topic has been fully presented, I reached the end of this discussion.





