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Cover story of this issue

More than 150 million men worldwide suffer from erectile dysfunction (ED). A figure expected to more than double over the next 25 years. How can that be prevented? Nitric oxide, produced in corpus cavernosum nerves, smooth muscle and endothelium, has been recognized as playing a key role in the physiology of penile erection. The NO synthase coenzyme tetrahydrobiopterin (BH₄) is an important factor in eNOS-dependent NO release. A reduction or lack of BH₄ leads to eNOS dysfunction, resulting in a switch from NO release to the formation of oxygen radicals, which could be one reason for ED. The world wide first investigations of BH₄ and ED can be read on page 159-167 by Frank Sommer *et al.*