

## Overview

Premature ejaculation (PE) is a term used to describe a condition in which a man regularly ejects semen (i.e., ejaculates) very soon after the onset of sexual arousal, or sooner than he or his partner wishes. This condition, which is also called rapid ejaculation, is the most common type of sexual dysfunction in men under the age of 40.

Premature ejaculation can be **primary** (in men who have had the condition since puberty), or **secondary** (acquired; in men who previously had control of ejaculation). It may develop in men who have erectile dysfunction (impotence) and are anxious about maintaining an erection during sexual intercourse.

Premature ejaculation often causes distress for the man and for his partner. When the condition regularly occurs before penetration, it may **prevent pregnancy**.

## Incidence and Prevalence

Premature ejaculation affects males only and can occur at any age of adulthood. The condition is most common between the ages of 18 and 30. It is estimated that premature ejaculation affects from 30–70% of men during their lifetime.