SIUJ Société Internationale d'Urologie Journal

*Reply*

# Reply to Xu, P.; Krambeck, A. Comment on "Trotsenko et al. Early Results after Thulium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate in Patients with Urodynamically Proven Detrusor Underactivity. *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* 2024, *5*, 160–168"

**Pawel Trotsenko [1,2,3,*] and Thomas R. W. Herrmann [1,*]**

[1] Department of Urology, Cantonal Hospital Frauenfeld, 8500 Frauenfeld, Switzerland
[2] Department of Urology, University Hospital Basel, 4031 Basel, Switzerland
[3] Department of Urology, State Hospital Wiener Neustadt, 2700 Wiener Neustadt, Austria
* Correspondence: pawel.trotsenko@usb.ch (P.T.); thomas.herrmann@stgag.ch (T.R.W.H.)

We are delighted that this important topic is attracting the attention of the urological community in the global scope and would like to express thanks for the positive comment [1]. One of the main problems is the lack of an accurate guideline for considering surgery in patients with a benign prostatic obstruction (BPO) and concomitant, non-neurogenic detrusor underactivity (DU) or acontractility (DA) [2]. At the same time, the indication for transurethral, anatomic enucleation of the prostate (AEEP) is usually based on the size of the prostate and not on the presence of a disorder like urodynamically proven DU/DA [3,4]. Of course, the clinical suspicion of DU/DA could be a sufficient indication for an AEEP in the future, but, due to evidence requirements, we currently have to rely on urodynamic examinations as the only widely accepted method to confirm the diagnosis In addition, a transurethral resection of the prostate is still considered the gold standard for subvesical desobstruction, and AEEP is not yet fully established as the primary tool for patients with a BPO without additional bladder function problems [2–6].

The certainty of evidence required to support the assumption of the authors of the comment on our study is simply not there yet, although any key opinion leader and user of AEEP would support this on the basis of seeing is believing (Plautus) [7]. However, despite the eminence-based strong support for AEEP as the optimal solution in these cases, the quality of the given studies and, thereby, the certainty of evidence in mainly retrospective cohort studies or case series are low. The European Association of Urology guideline panel for the management of non-neurogenic male lower urinary tract symptoms defined the point at which a treatment could be perceived as "standard". Currently, the studies range at the lower level of this pyramid and, thereby, do not allow such a firm conclusionTherefore, a key objective is to initiate well-designed, large, multicenter, and pro-/retrospective studies on AEEP in DU/DA, regardless of the energy source used, with adequate length of follow-up to support precision medicine and to facilitate the development of recommendations in high-quality guidelines [3,4,8]. As long as the level of evidence and, thus, the certainty of evidence has not reached a level of 1B, Euclid's 2300-year-old statement remains as relevant as ever: "Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur"—"What has been affirmed without proof can also be denied without proof" [9].

**Author Contributions:** P.T. and T.R.W.H., writing—original draft preparation and editing. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Conflicts of Interest:** Thomas R. W. Herrmann: Company consultant, Speakers Bureau, and R&D collaboration, Proctor; Speaker—Karl Storz GmbH, Tuttlingen, Germany. The rest of the authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

check for updates

**Citation:** Trotsenko, P.; Herrmann, T.R.W. Reply to Xu, P.; Krambeck, A. Comment on "Trotsenko et al. Early Results after Thulium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate in Patients with Urodynamically Proven Detrusor Underactivity. *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* 2024, *5*, 160–168". *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* **2024**, *5*, 266–267. https://doi.org/10.3390/siuj5040042

Received: 26 June 2024
Accepted: 2 July 2024
Published: 20 August 2024

**Copyright:** © 2024 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

## Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AEEP | Anatomic enucleation of the prostate |
| BPO | Benign prostatic obstruction |
| DA | Detrusor acontractility |
| DU | Detrusor underactivity |

## References

1. Xu, P.; Krambeck, A. Comment on Trotsenko et al. Early Results after Thulium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate in Patients with Urodynamically Proven Detrusor Underactivity. *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* 2024, *5*, 160–168. *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* **2024**, *5*, 242–243. [CrossRef]
2. Jeong, H.J.; Lee, H.; Choo, M.S.; Cho, S.Y.; Jeong, S.J.; Oh, S.-J. Effect of detrusor underactivity on surgical outcomes of holmium laser enucleation of the prostate. *BJU Int.* **2024**, *133*, 770–777. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
3. Trotsenko, P.; Wetterauer, C.; Haydter, M.; Lusuardi, L.; Herrmann, T.R.W. Early Results after Thulium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate in Patients with Urodynamically Proven Detrusor Underactivity. *Soc. Int. Urol. J.* **2024**, *5*, 160–168. [CrossRef]
4. Cornu, J.N.; Gacci, M.; Hashim, H.; Herrmann, T.R.W.; Malde, S.; Netsch, C.; Nunzio, D.; Rieken, M.; Sakalis, V.; Tutolo, M. *EAU Guidelines on Non-Neurogenic Male Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)*; European Association of Urology: Arnhem, The Netherlands, 2024.
5. Lomas, D.J.; Krambeck, A.E. Long-term Efficacy of Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate in Patients with Detrusor Underactivity or Acontractility. *Urology* **2016**, *97*, 208–211. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
6. Mitchell, C.R.; Mynderse, L.A.; Lightner, D.J.; Husmann, D.A.; Krambeck, A.E. Efficacy of holmium laser enucleation of the prostate in patients with non-neurogenic impaired bladder contractility: Results of a prospective trial. *Urology* **2014**, *83*, 428–432. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
7. De Melo, W. *Plautus: Amphitryon. The Comedy of Asses. The Pot of Gold. The Two Bacchises. The Captives*; Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA, USA, 2011.
8. Speakman, M.J.; Cornu, J.-N.; Gacci, M.; Gratzke, C.; Mamoulakis, C.; Herrmann, T.R.W.; Omar, M.I.; Rieken, M.; Tikkinen, K.A.O.; Gravas, S. What Is the Required Certainty of Evidence for the Implementation of Novel Techniques for the Treatment of Benign Prostatic Obstruction? *Eur. Urol. Focus* **2019**, *5*, 351–356. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
9. Euclid. Alexandria: 3rd Century BC. Available online: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases_(Q) (accessed on 26 June 2024).

**Disclaimer/Publisher's Note:** The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.