

# Erectile dysfunction drugs may help treat many other conditions

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A new *British Journal of Pharmacology* review examines how phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE5) inhibitors, which were originally approved to treat erectile dysfunction, are finding clinical uses for a wide variety of conditions.

PDE5 inhibitors cause blood vessel dilation by targeting a particular cellular pathway that is involved in many normal physiological functions and in the pathophysiology of a wide range of diseases.

PDE5 inhibitors likely have effects on many organs and functions, and they have been approved to treat [lower urinary tract](#) symptoms and [pulmonary arterial hypertension](#). They are also being used off-label to treat conditions including diabetes and cancer.

**More information:** K-E Andersson, PDE5 Inhibitors - Pharmacology and Clinical Applications 20 Years After Sildenafil Discovery, *British Journal of Pharmacology* (2018). [DOI: 10.1111/bph.14205](https://doi.org/10.1111/bph.14205)

Provided by Wiley

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