

**Reply to: “Preventing the long-term consequences of lichen sclerosis”**



*To the Editor:* I appreciate Dr Bunker's interest and viewpoint regarding the pathogenesis of lichen sclerosis, based on my commentary<sup>1</sup> on the article by Morrel et al<sup>2</sup> regarding juvenile vulvar lichen sclerosis.

According to Kravvas et al,<sup>3</sup> male genital lichen sclerosis “is generally a disease of the uncircumcised. Factors postulated in the pathogenesis include genetic predisposition, autoimmunity, infectious agents, physical trauma and obesity. However, we have marshalled a compelling argument based on all of the available evidence that chronic irritation of a susceptible epithelium by occluded exposure to urine is central to the pathogenesis.”

Perhaps the irritancy of urine, as noted in uncircumcised men with genital lichen sclerosis, could play a role in the pathogenesis of juvenile vulvar lichen sclerosis, among other factors. As usual, more study is warranted.

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