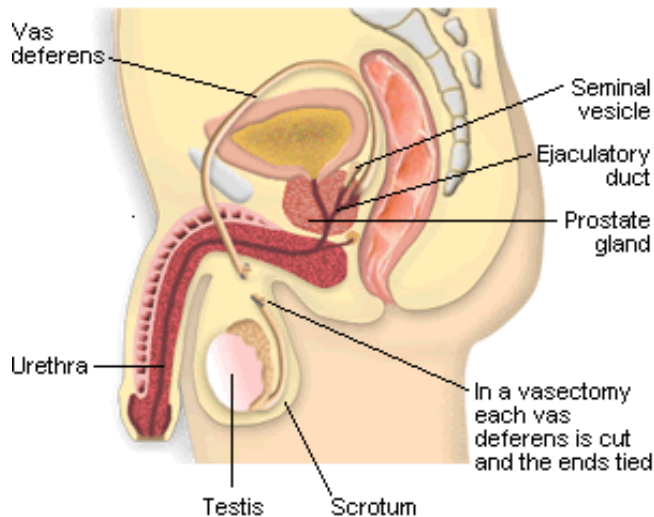


# Vasectomy

## Information for Patients

Your doctor has referred you to us for a vasectomy (male sterilisation operation), under local anaesthetic.



### PRE OP

Please trim the hair around your scrotum with scissors on the morning of the operation.

You should not eat heavily beforehand,

nor drink alcohol on the day of the procedure.

No sedation is normally required, but if you are anxious you may ask your GP for a mild sedative to take before your appointment.

If it is not possible to perform the procedure using local anaesthetic you will be referred for operation under general anaesthetic.

### THE OPERATION

The procedure takes about 30 minutes. After first numbing the skin, the operation is performed by dividing both vas (the duct carrying the sperm) using diathermy.

### POST-OP

You need to wear well fitting and supportive underpants or swimming trunks (i.e. not boxers) after the procedure. You will be given a form and specimen pot to take home for



your sample 16 weeks following your procedure.

**It is advisable to have someone to drive you home following your operation.**

### Contraception

Be aware that you must not abandon contraceptive precautions until you have been informed that your semen sample is negative.

### Failure

The procedure occasionally fails to render the patient sterile due to early rejoining of the vas. Late rejoining may also occur but is rare.

### Reversibility

This is possible to do but the results are not always good. It is best to regard this as a permanent procedure. Vasectomy reversal is not available under the NHS, but the operation may be carried out privately.

### Results

We will send you a letter once we have received a negative result, to confirm the procedure has been successful. If your specimen is positive we will notify you in writing, to ask you to submit a further sample

for testing. You will again be informed by letter when this is confirmed.

## COMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Any surgical procedure has an element of risk attached to it and



occasionally things do not turn out as well as expected. Fortunately the complications are rare and the outcomes usually very good.

- A little soreness and bruising are usual.
- **Wound haematoma** (excessive swelling and bleeding) or **infection** do occasionally occur which may be more painful and may necessitate further treatment with antibiotics or drainage of the blood collection. Therefore you should report excessive discomfort to your doctor.
- **Granuloma** - This is uncommon and consists of a tender lump at the end of the vas and is usually noticed several months after the operation. It normally settles spontaneously. If persistent it can be removed surgically.
- Slight swelling of the testis may occur. This resolves spontaneously but may take a few weeks.

- Rarely, persisting post operative discomfort can persist for several months.
- **Positive test at 6 months** - This is unusual and if persistent may require more detailed semen analysis or further exploration under local anaesthetic.
- **Post vasectomy pain syndrome** - Rare complication- pain maybe experienced continually or intermittently for months or even years. It maybe very troublesome and occasionally require a further surgical procedure or vasectomy reversal.

## WHERE TO GET ADVICE

If you have any concerns during the post-op period you can get advice or help from one these sources.



- Try your own doctor or nurse
- Contact one of the surgical team Tel 01726 885104
- Out of Hours Service – contact the emergency number provided by your surgery
- Your local Emergency Department

Excessive pain or swelling, particularly associated with a temperature, should prompt you to seek advice.

## PAIN CONTROL

We recommend you take painkillers such as paracetamol as soon as you get home following the instructions on the packet.

## TRAINING OF STUDENTS

We are a teaching and training practice. Sometimes medical students or doctors in training may wish to



observe or participate in procedures or operations. They will always be supervised by a senior doctor and will only participate with your approval.

If you do not wish to be seen by trainees or students you are perfectly entitled to withhold your consent.

**If, after reading this information leaflet, you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the surgical team.**

**Tel:01726 885104**