

Information

What is a Vasectomy?

A vasectomy is a minor surgical procedure where the vas deferens is cut and a small piece removed as a means of a permanent, safe and very effective contraception

Sperm are produced in the testes and are ejaculated through the vas deferens.

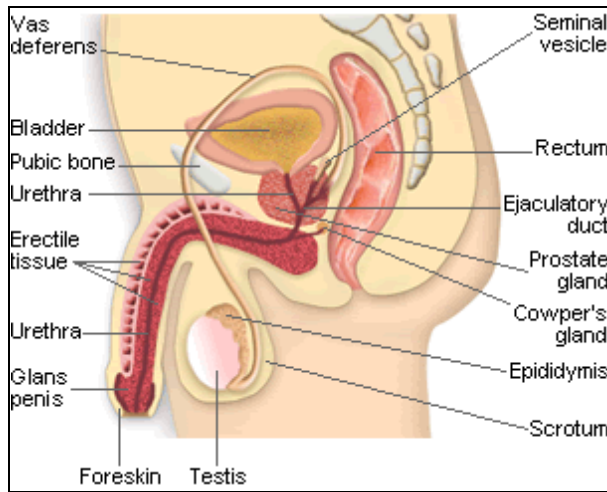


Figure 1: Male Anatomy

What type of Anaesthetic?

General Anaesthesia is the preferred method for this procedure. Your surgeon will place local anaesthetic in the wound at the end of the procedure to minimize discomfort.

What does the Surgeon do?

After you are asleep an incision is made on both sides of the scrotum and the vas deferens is drawn out. The vas deferens is then cut and a piece removed and the ends are either tied or sealed with heat.

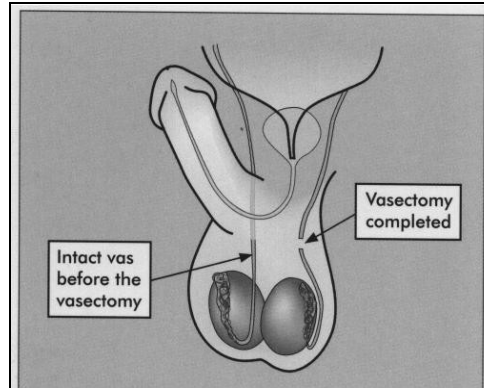


Figure 2: Excision of vas deferens

Are there any Complications?

As with any surgical procedure complications may occur. The major potential problems are post-operative pain, infection and bleeding.

What to expect after the Operation

- You will have a small wound dressing
- The site will be closely monitored for swelling, bruising and bleeding
- Report any pain to the nursing staff
- Use pain relief as required according to manufactures instructions

Recovery at Home

Wound Management

- Before discharge from hospital nursing staff will discuss wound management
- After surgery you may recommence your daily shower, taking care not to rub soap into the wound. Let water run over wound and pat dry thoroughly

Medication

- Use pain medication as required
- Some pain relief medication may cause constipation. To avoid this:
 - high fibre diet (prunes, bran etc)
 - increase fluid intake
 - you may need a laxative (Senokot)

Activity

- driving can be resumed within 24 hours of an anaesthetic, but be wary of abrupt movement whilst driving
- Avoid heavy lifting and sexual activity for a few days

You should contact your doctor if you:-

- Pass bright red blood
- Have fever, shivers, shakes
- Wound becomes red, swollen or bruised
- Pain not relieved through regular pain control

Commonly asked Questions

Will a vasectomy affect my sex drive?

There is no evidence to suggest that a man's "sex drive" is affected by a vasectomy

Will I still be able to ejaculate?

After a vasectomy sperm are still produced and leave the testes, but go no further than where the vas deferens was severed. The sperm are reabsorbed back into the body. Men can still have an orgasm and the semen volume does not noticeably reduce

How quickly does the vasectomy work?

For a few months after the vasectomy sperm are still clearing out of the ducts so it is vital to continue to use other forms of contraception.

You will be required to have a semen analysis after you have had 20 ejaculations. Your surgeon will give you the pathology forms prior to discharge. Contact your local pathology collection centre prior to testing to confirm appointment times. You will be notified of these results.

If the post-vasectomy semen analysis comes back showing inactive sperm you will be required to repeat this testing after another 20 ejaculations. It is strongly advised to continue using other forms of contraception at this stage.

A vasectomy should be considered a non-reversible procedure, thus if you have any doubts about this you should discuss these with your surgeon and partner.

Vasectomy
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Admission Details:

* Hospital _____

* Date _____

* Time _____

FASTING FOR AT LEAST 6 HOURS BEFORE SURGERY

TAKE USUAL MEDICATION ON MORNING OF SURGERY (except aspirin/warfarin)

**DO NOT TAKE ASPIRIN/WARFARIN/PERSANTIN
ONE WEEK PRIOR TO SURGERY**

Patient Information Leaflet

VASECTOMY



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