

though most men can ejaculate sperm after the reversal surgery, the sperm are often not able to fertilize an egg.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor immediately if:

- A fever develops.
- It is difficult to urinate.
- There is excessive swelling in the testes.

Call the doctor during office hours if:

- You have questions about the procedure or its result.
- You want to make another appointment.

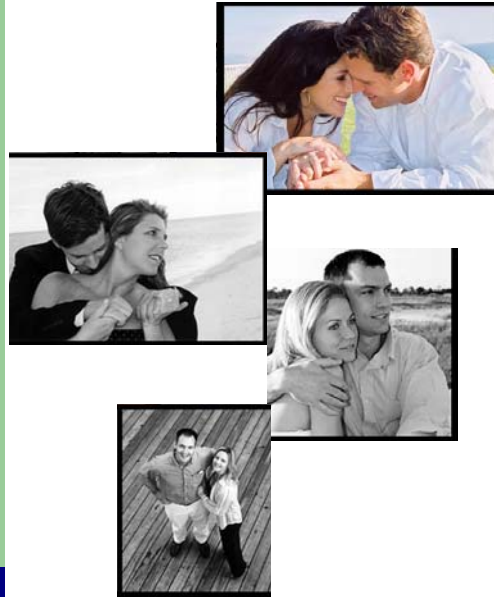


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VASECTOMY



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VASECTOMY

What is a vasectomy?

A vasectomy is a procedure that a man can ask to have to make him sterile. The two tubes (vas deferens, or vas) that carry sperm from the testes to the penis are cut and blocked. A few months after the vasectomy, the semen (the fluid that is ejaculated during sex) will no longer contain sperm.

There is no change in a man's ability to have an erection and sexual intercourse after the surgery. The only difference is that there are no sperm in the semen to cause pregnancy.

When is it used?

A vasectomy is one of the most effective and safest forms of birth control. It is done only when a man asks for it. It is important to understand that sterilization is usually permanent.

An alternative is to try other forms of birth control. You should ask your doctor about your choices.

How do I prepare for a vasectomy?

Follow instructions provided by the doctor. Plan for care and recovery after the operation.

What happens during the procedure?



The vasectomy is done in an outpatient clinic or in the doctor's office. It usually takes 15 to 20 minutes.

One way to do the procedure involves making one or two small cuts in the skin of the scrotum. (Before the cuts are made, the doctor numbs each side of the scrotum with a local anesthetic.) The doctor pulls each vas through the opening and cuts out a section of each vas. The two ends of

VASECTOMY

each vas are sealed and the vas are then placed back in the scrotum. The cuts are closed with stitches.

Another way to do a vasectomy is called a no-scalpel vasectomy. The doctor feels for the vas under the skin of the scrotum and holds it in place with a small clamp. Then the doctor uses a special instrument to make a tiny puncture in the skin and stretch the opening so the vas can be cut and



ties. This approach produces very little bleeding. The punctures heal quickly by themselves, so no stitches are needed. This newer method causes less pain and fewer complications.

What happens after the procedure?

You may go home after the procedure is completed. There may be some pain in your groin for 3 or 4 days after the operation. Some blood or yellow liquid

may ooze from the cuts on the outside. The area around the cuts may swell a bit and turn black and blue.

The doctor may recommend the following:

- **Put an ice bag on the scrotum for 2 hours after the procedure.**
- **Rest at home for at least a day.**
- **Avoid all heavy lifting for at least 1 week.**
- **Wear a jockstrap or tight fitting underwear to support the scrotum (testicles) for 4 to 6 weeks.**
- **Take a pain reliever, such as acetaminophen, for any pain following the operation.**
- **Go back to work as soon as you are able, usually within a few days.**



come back for a checkup and semen tests.

You may have sex again as soon as you feel able, usually about a week after the procedure. For 2 to 4 months use other birth control methods during sexual intercourse, until your semen test is sperm-free. Ask your doctor what other steps you should take and when you should

What are the benefits of this procedure?

Vasectomy is a very reliable method of birth control.

There are no pills to take or devices to insert, and there is no interruption of sex.



Are there any reasons I shouldn't have a vasectomy?

Don't have a vasectomy unless you're sure you don't want to have children in the future. Other reasons you may need to wait to have a vasectomy or may not be able to have one include having an infection on or around your genitals or having a bleeding disorder.

What are the risks associated with this procedure?

Local anesthesia may not numb the area quite enough and some minor discomfort may be felt when the cuts are made. Also, in rare cases, people have an allergic reaction to the drug used in this type of anesthesia.

The tissue next to the testes may become

swollen.

There may be bleeding in the scrotum.

There is a chance that months or years after the operation sperm may again appear in the semen and possibly cause a woman to become pregnant.

There is a risk of infection or bleeding.

You should ask your doctor about these risks.

Can vasectomy be reversed?

Some vasectomies can be undone, or "reversed," but the surgery is expensive, not usually covered by insurance and must be performed in a hospital. Even

