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1. General Information

Vasectomy is the surgical procedure for permanent male sterilisation.

During ejaculation, sperm is combined with other fluids to make up the ejaculate. The volume made up by the sperm is only 1% and so there is no noticeable change in the volume of ejaculate after vasectomy. Some months after vasectomy the reserve of sperm in the seminal vesicles will gradually deplete and then infertility is achieved. The doctor will provide pathology forms for sample testing to be done 12 weeks after the procedure. It takes this long for the reservoir of sperm to deplete, so other forms of contraception must be used until the test results are received.

Sex drive and sexual function remains unaltered as the levels of male hormone (testosterone) are unaffected by the operation as this hormone is carried by the blood stream directly from the testis. Vasectomy reliability is very good and the late failure rate (tubes spontaneously re-joining) is about 1 in 1,000.

Reversal of vasectomy – you should consider vasectomy as not reversible as we cannot guarantee that an individual can undergo reversal successfully. In general, reversal is successful in the first 5 years but the success rate drops off as the years go by. The cost of reversal is several thousand dollars. Our clinic does not perform reversal procedures. You should ask your GP for a referral to see an appropriate surgeon.

Using IVF techniques one sperm obtained by testicular biopsy can be injected into an egg to achieve pregnancy but again, there is a cost and risk involved in this treatment.

The patient is required to have an initial consultation with our doctor to discuss the procedure. Following this consultation, the procedure appointment can be booked with a \$100 deposit required at the time of booking. Should a patient wish to reschedule or cancel their procedure appointment, 2 full working days' notice must be given or the deposit will be forfeited.

2. The Operation

At our practice the patient is awake throughout. Pain relief is via local anaesthetic. We use the "no scalpel" method (NSV). This method gives a smaller skin puncture and therefore fewer complications. Two to three centimetres of tube are removed from each side. The top ends of the tubes are cauterized and the bottom ends are left open. The hole heals itself and no formal follow up appointment is required

The risks of the procedure to ensure you discuss and understand with your doctor include pain, swelling, infection, bleeding and potential risk of failure (technical difficulty or re-joining of vas)

3. Instructions to Patients

You should plan 3 days off work for recovery time. Should you have a rare complication such as excess bruising, you may need several weeks to recover.

Please shave your scrotum in the days prior to the operation to reduce the risk of infection

On the day of the procedure please take your antibiotic and, if using it, sedative medication between 1 and 2 hours before your appointment time – these will be provided to you at the initial consultation

You may drive yourself to and from the clinic unless you are having medication for sedation – in which case you need a driver. Partners/spouses are welcome to stay and sometimes sit in for the procedure.

Please don't take aspirin, anti-inflammatory's or fish oil in the 2 weeks prior to your procedure as these may increase bleeding risk.

4. Anxiety Management

If you are likely to suffer excessive anxiety during the operation we are happy to provide sedation using diazepam one hour beforehand. This needs to be discussed at your first visit. You may need to come to the clinic one hour prior to the procedure to take the sedative.

5. Sterility

Please consider yourself still fertile until proven otherwise with testing. You will be supplied with pathology form and yellow top specimen bottles at the time of your initial consultation. Please speak directly with the doctor to discuss your test results.

6. After the Operation

It is prudent to rest for the first 24 hours and then take things quietly for the next two days. For the first week avoid ejaculation, sex and heavy lifting/activity

Some pain over the initial 3-7 days is not unusual and you may use simple analgesia such as paracetamol and icepacks for pain relief.

Discomfort in the first weeks should not be severe enough to get in the way of usual activity
Please contact us to report any more significant or retracted pain and swelling or redness

Bruising

Some visible bruising under the skin is not uncommon but please advise us of any bruising. Showering and normal bathing is fine after the first 24 hours

7. Pain During and After the Operation

Men tolerate the operation very well and state that they were surprised how little pain they suffered. Should you wish to be under general anaesthetic (asleep) for this procedure your doctor can arrange a referral at your initial consultation.

8. Signed Consent

I understand there are risks and complications associated with this procedure and I have thoroughly discussed and understand these.

I understand that if any signs of these complications occur I am to contact the Clinic or seek medical help immediately.

I understand that if such complications occur, I may need to undergo additional medical or surgical management and/or be taken to the local hospital for continued care.

I confirm with my signature that I have read this 3 page consent document and have discussed this information with my consulting doctor and that I have had the chance to ask questions, that all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and that I do hereby consent to the treatment described in this form.

Patient Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** / /

Doctors Name: _____

Doctors Signature: _____ Date; / /