

VASECTOMY REVERSAL

Although a vasectomy is considered irreversible, there is a surgical procedure called “Vasovasostomy” that may restore fertility. “Vasovasostomy” involves the surgical re-connection of the vas deferens to re-establish the flow of sperm. Nonetheless, patients are cautioned to understand that this is major surgery and fertility is not guaranteed.

Office Locations

Richmond
Colonial Heights
Emporia
Hopewell
Mechanicsville
Midlothian
Tappahannock



Virginia Urology

800-828-7656 / www.uro.com

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Virginia Urology

Patient

Guide

for

VASECTOMY



Every year nearly one-half million men in the United States will choose to have a vasectomy - the most effective means of permanent birth control available today. Safe and simple for men of all ages who desire permanent sterility, vasectomy does not affect the production of male hormones nor does it alter sexual functioning. What’s more, sensation during sexual intercourse and the ability to have an erection are unchanged. Since sperm occupies only a small portion of semen (ejaculation is composed of 98% body fluid and only 2% sperm) the volume of ejaculation is not significantly changed.

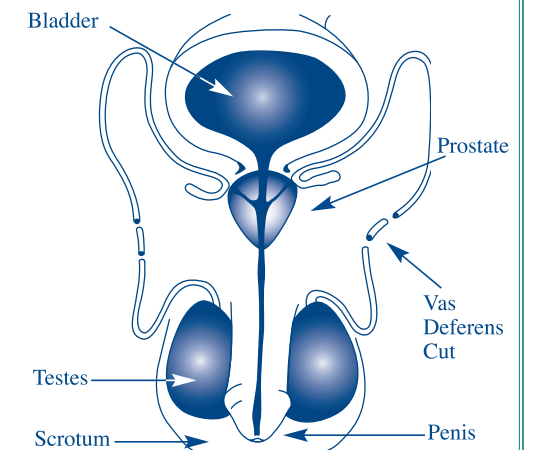
A vasectomy involves surgically cutting and occluding (closing off or blocking) the vas deferens, the tube that carries sperm from the testicle to where it is stored. At the time of ejaculation, contractions from the prostate force the fluid into the urethra and out the penis. After vasectomy, the testes continue to produce sperm cells that are simply absorbed by the body.

PREPARATION FOR SURGERY

A vasectomy is performed by your urologist on an outpatient basis in the Virginia Urology Surgery Center or at the ambulatory care facility of your choice. The urologist that you consulted with may or may not perform your vasectomy. However, if follow-up is needed after surgery, he will be the physician you will see.

- Before arriving for your scheduled procedure:
 - SHAVE as much hair as you can from the entire scrotal area. It is important that you do not use menthol shaving cream, cream depilatories or an electric razor.
 - Then shower and wash the area of your body where surgery will be performed with mild soap.
 - Bring along a brief type under wear or a suitable size athletic supporter to wear after the procedure is complete.
 - You should have nothing to eat or drink 8 hours prior to the procedure.

Male Reproductive System



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING SURGERY

- Prior to surgery, you will change into a surgical gown, and escorted to the procedure room. Anesthesia will be given to help you relax. You may experience a slight stinging sensation when the local anesthetic is injected into the scrotum.
- The Virginia Urology physician will then make one or two small incisions into the scrotum. Just below the skin, the vas deferens will be cut and a section of the tube removed. The two ends of the vas deferens will be tied or cauterized. Despite the local anesthesia, you may experience a tugging or pulling sensation in the scrotum or groin.
- The incision will be closed with small sutures which will dissolve.
- An athletic supporter or brief type underwear may be used to immobilize the scrotum and minimize discomfort.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY

- Since the sedation will not wear off for approximately two hours, you may experience some unsteadiness on your feet.
- You must have a family member or friend drive you home following your surgery.
- Although you may experience some discomfort within the first 24 hours, it is usually not severe. Your physician will give you a prescription for pain medication prior to leaving the surgery center.
- Avoid any lifting greater than 10 lbs., vigorous exercise (golf, basketball, tennis, biking, etc.) for one week following surgery.
- You may return to work in two to three days if your work is sedentary. If your work involves heavy, physical activity, you may wish to wait an additional 48-72 hours.
- To protect your incision, do not bathe or shower for the first 24 hours following surgery.
- Sexual activity using birth control can be resumed within one week.
- During the first week following surgery, you may notice a dark discoloration around the genital area and a slight bloody discharge from your incision. You may also experience slight pain and swelling, which is normal and will usually subside within several days.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

No surgical procedure is without risk. However, the majority of complications associated with vasectomy are minor. It is important to enter your surgery aware of both the benefits and possible complications. If you experience any of these symptoms, please call Virginia Urology.

Within the First Week Following Surgery

- Internal bleeding in the scrotum which may cause pain and swelling or an enlarging mass
- Infection

Several Months Following Surgery

- Sperm granuloma - a lump at the site where the vas deferens is tied off - will usually disappear in time. Occasionally, surgery may be required to correct this complication
- Congestion caused by sperm left in the epididymis which may cause aching within 3-12 weeks, will usually disappear without treatment.
- Although rarely occurring, spontaneous formation of a new vas deferens through the scar tissue can usually be detected by a postoperative semen test.

POST-OPERATIVE SEMEN EXAMINATIONS

After your vasectomy it is essential to continue to use some method of birth control until all stored sperm are cleared from the ejaculatory system. This will be determined by laboratory analysis of your semen sample after your surgery. When two consecutive specimens are found to be sperm-free, you are considered sterile and birth control is no longer necessary.

The first sample is due **12 weeks** after your surgery and another **two weeks** after that. **Any sample brought in earlier than 12 weeks post vasectomy will be rejected.**

You will need to collect a semen specimen as directed by your physician. Samples must be collected in the container provided by Virginia Urology. Once you have collected your specimen in the container provided, keep the specimen at room temperature and deliver it to our office within 1 to 2 hours of collection.

Please bring in the specimen between the hours of 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm Monday thru Thursday and 8:30 am - 11:00 am Friday.