

Information for Patients

Vasectomy Reversal

Vasectomy reversal

While vasectomies are considered a permanent form of birth control, some men opt to reverse them. This procedure is known as a vasovasostomy and uses microsurgical techniques to reconnect the vas deferens (tube that carries the sperm from the testicles).

Vasectomy reversal is performed under general anaesthetic. It is important to know that even a successful vasectomy reversal does not guarantee fertility.

What happens during my operation?

The operation involves making two incisions in the scrotum. The ends of the vas tube are located and carefully re-joined using magnification and very fine precision stitching.

The operation is performed under general anaesthetic. The operation is generally able to be done as a day case. The procedure (including anaesthetic) normally takes between 1¼ – 2 hours

Success rates

Success rates are different for every male, which is why it's key to book in a consultation where the Urologist can have an honest discussion about their specific likelihood of success.

The first attempt at reversal is the most successful. A shorter interval from vasectomy to reversal is better, with most success when <15 years. Across all men having this operation, the likelihood of having some sperm in the ejaculate (>1 million per ml) is 85% rate.

There are also factors that the Urologist can determine from examination that can help assess the success rate.

Pregnancy rates

This depends on the success rate (success means whether live sperm are found in the semen after the reversal). The success rate also depends on other factors, including the age of the partner and the time since vasectomy. An average pregnancy rate is around 50%.

What to expect after my operation

You will have some bruising to your scrotum which will eventually settle. It is advisable to take it easy for a week and wear firm, supportive underwear.

A sperm count is usually performed 6 weeks after surgery. The result of this will indicate whether the reversal has been successful and whether you may be able to father children.

Sometimes, despite successful surgery, healthy sperm do not appear in the semen afterwards. Your Urologist will discuss this with you before your operation. It is important to know that even a successful vasectomy reversal does not guarantee fertility.

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