

SunMed Skin & Medical | Vasectomy Information Sheet

Vasectomy: A Comprehensive Overview

Vasectomy is widely recognised as the most common and effective method of permanent surgical sterilisation for men. This procedure involves the precise separation of the vas deferens, a pair of delicate tubes responsible for carrying sperm. By interrupting this pathway, vasectomy successfully blocks the entry of sperm into the semen. There are different approaches to performing a vasectomy, such as the no-scalpel versus scalpel technique, as well as the open end versus traditional approach

How Does a Vasectomy Work?

Sperm, which is generated in the testes, travels through a pair of vas deferens tubes to reach the seminal vesicle. During a vasectomy, these tubes are accurately severed to block the flow of sperm into the semen. As a result, the semen becomes free of sperm, making it unable to cause pregnancy. It's worth noting that sperm constitutes only a small percentage (2-5%) of the overall semen volume. Importantly, vasectomy has no impact on testosterone levels, sperm production, sexual function, libido, or the amount of semen and ejaculate.

Potential Complications

While vasectomy is a generally safe procedure, there are potential complications to be aware of:

- **Bleeding (Haematoma):** A small risk of bleeding exists post-vasectomy, which can typically be prevented by meticulous control of bleeding during the procedure.
- **Infection:** Although uncommon, there is a slight risk of infection, which can usually be effectively treated with oral antibiotics.
- **Long-standing Pain:** Rarely, individuals may experience long-standing pain, potentially linked to an immune system reaction known as sperm granuloma. Any persistent discomfort or pain two weeks post-procedure should be promptly discussed with your doctor.



Vasectomy Failure

Research has demonstrated a very low risk of vasectomy failure once clearance is achieved. In rare cases, the vas deferens may be inadvertently missed during the procedure, resulting in the possibility of tube regrowth. However, studies indicate that less than 1 percent of men may require a repeat vasectomy in such instances. It is important to carefully monitor for any signs of swelling, pain, or discomfort beyond the initial two-week recovery period following the vasectomy. If any of these symptoms persist, it is advisable to promptly seek medical attention for further evaluation and guidance.

Conclusion

Vasectomy is a highly reliable and permanent contraceptive choice for men. Although complications are rare, it is important to stay informed about potential risks and consult with your healthcare provider regarding any concerns. Your doctor will offer personalised guidance, answer any questions you may have, and support you throughout the decision-making process and recovery.