

Vasectomy Information

1. Vasectomy (ligation of the vas deferens) is an operation done to produce sterility (the inability to have children).
2. In the male there are 2 muscular tubes, one leading from each testicle, called the vas deferens. The vas deferens carry sperm from the testicle to the prostate gland. By dividing the tubes we interrupt the normal flow of the sperm to the outside.
3. Following this operation there will be no change in masculinity or sexual potency. There is no detectable change in the quantity of semen; sperm makes up less than 1% of the volume of semen, the rest being made up by the fluids from the prostate and seminal vesicle. The sperm cells themselves are still produced, but are accumulated in the epididymis gland and are reabsorbed by the body.
4. **ABSOLUTE STERILITY IS NOT GUARANTEED.** There have been incidents of re-growth of the vas (0.2-1%). However, this is exceedingly rare. Most authorities agree that sterility has been produced once semen shows no sperm at 8 weeks after surgery, again there have been some late incidences of re-growth of the vas after-several years (0.08). Vasectomy is probably the safest form of surgical contraception.
5. There are other methods of birth control including rhythm method, use of condoms, withdrawal, birth control pills, use of a diaphragm, use of spermicidal jelly or cream, and tubal ligation (ligating the fallopian tubes in the woman).
6. This procedure can be reversed; however, the results are not 100%.
7. Complications are similar to those of any type of surgery and include delayed bleeding (1-3%) and infections (1%).
8. The procedure is usually done with local anesthesia in our surgery center and it can also be done with sedation or general anesthesia, if so desired.
9. If possible, the patient should shave all hair from the scrotom before coming to the office.
10. If taking aspirin or blood thinners, the patient should discontinue this for one week prior to having the vasectomy performed.

POSTOPERATIVE VASECTOMY

1. Apply frozen peas to area of incision continuously while awake. Do this for 24 hours. This will decrease swelling and relieve pain.
2. Lie flat as much as possible for the first 24 hrs. after surgery.
3. You may take showers. Your stitches will fall out in a week to ten days.
4. Wear jockey shorts or an athletic supporter.
5. No heavy exertion (lifting greater than 20 lbs., etc.) for the first 24 to 48 hours if possible.
6. A certain amount of discoloration, swelling and oozing from the wound is normal. Any unusual swelling, pain, or fever should be reported to your physician. Swelling the size of another testicle would be abnormal.
7. Take 1 Aleve before the procedure and every 12 hrs for 5-7 days. Your doctor may prescribe a stronger pain medication.
8. Intercourse is permissible any time after the operation; however it is **NOT SAFE** until two specimens are negative for sperm. Some method of contraception should be used until the specimens have been checked.
9. The first semen specimen should be brought to the office after eight weeks. The second semen should be brought in four weeks later. Collect the specimen in a clean container and bring it to the office as soon as possible. Do not use a condom or lubricant when collecting specimen. **It is necessary to call our office the day before you bring in your specimen. The specimen must be collected the same morning it is brought in to the office.**

Lancaster Office (717) 393-1771
Lab Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM