



Male Sterilization (Vasectomy)

What is male sterilization?

In a vasectomy, the tubes that carry sperm from the testicles to the penis are surgically blocked. This prevents sperm from travelling to the penis. When the man ejaculates, his semen does not contain any sperm and he cannot make a woman pregnant.

It is considered to be a permanent method of birth control, but takes up to three or four months after the surgery to become effective.

Important to know

Before a man obtains a vasectomy, he should fully understand the operation. If he thinks he may want children in the future, a vasectomy is not appropriate for him at this time.

After a vasectomy, the man still ejaculates seminal fluid from the penis at orgasm. For the first few months following the vasectomy, this fluid may contain sperm that were present from before the surgery. The vasectomy is not effective until all these 'left-over' sperm are ejaculated. This can take up to three or four months. Your doctor may recommend a test on your semen three to four months after your vasectomy to make sure sperm are no longer present.

A vasectomy does not affect a man's sex drive, sexual performance or sexual enjoyment.

Why consider a vasectomy?

A vasectomy may be appropriate if:

- a man does not want to father any more children or any children at all
- there is a risk of transmitting hereditary defects

The advantages of a vasectomy

- permanent
- highly effective (failure rate is 0.5 percent)
- safe

For further information, please call:
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TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca

- quick recovery
- covered by OHIP
- no need to buy anything
- no need for partner compliance
- no need to interrupt lovemaking
- private
- no significant long term effects

The disadvantages of a vasectomy

- it is considered to be irreversible, because it is a permanent method of contraception
- there is a risk of infection or surgical complications
- there is a wait period of three to four months after the vasectomy to make sure that the sperm count is zero. Use another form of birth control during this time
- you are not protected against sexually transmitted infections, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Remember: A vasectomy provides protection against pregnancy but does not protect against sexually transmitted infections. Use a latex condom every time you have sex.

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