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VASECTOMY

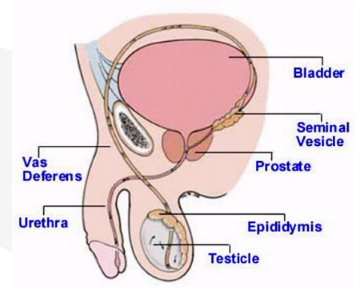
Providing Specialist Care in South Australia & Northern Territory

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What is a Vasectomy?

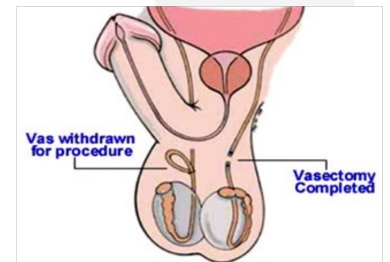
A vasectomy is an operation to divide the vas deferens, the tube that carries the sperm from the testis to the penis. This prevents sperm from travelling to the penis as part of the seminal fluid. It should be considered a permanent form of contraception, and so you should be certain you do not wish to have any more children before you proceed. Although a vasectomy reversal is possible in some men, a vasectomy should still be considered irreversible.



A vasectomy is usually performed with sedation or a general anaesthetic but can be done under local anaesthetic. The success rate is very high, 99.8%, but there are some issues and potential complications you should be aware of.

About the operation

The operation is done through 1 or 2 small incisions in the scrotum, the vas is found and divided on each side. A dissolvable stitch is used to close the small wound. Afterwards we give you a pad and ask you to wear firm-fitting underwear (not boxers).



Sex and Contraception

It is essential that you continue to use an alternative form of contraception after your vasectomy. Most episodes of failure occur when this precaution is not followed, or follow up semen testing does not take place. We would suggest waiting 1 week after the vasectomy before recommencing intercourse.

Preparation for your procedure

- Have a shower or bath on the day of your procedure.
- Shave the hairs from your scrotum.
- Bring 2 pairs of firm-fitting underwear.

What to expect afterwards

You are likely to have a small amount of bruising and pain. The pain will most likely subside within 7 days but it may last for up to a month afterwards.

Complications

The complication rate is low, but there are some specific complications you should be aware of before proceeding.

Infection

The rate of infection is very low.

Bruising

It is likely you will have some bruising afterwards. We suggest you limit activity and wear firm-fitting underwear. Occasionally bruising can be severe (haematoma). This can be painful and take quite some time to resolve.

Pain

You should expect some pain afterwards. This is usually controlled with tablets. Although the worst of it will subside within a week, it is not unusual to have some discomfort for up to a month afterwards.

Rarely (0.5-1%), a patient can have persisting testicular pain that does not resolve. This may require ongoing medication or a further surgical procedure.

