

Having a vasectomy under local anaesthetic

Department of Urology

Information for patients

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What is a vasectomy?

A vasectomy is a procedure carried out to provide a permanent form of contraception in men. A vasectomy is difficult to reverse, so you need to be sure it is right for you.

Your vasectomy will be done under local anaesthetic, where you are awake but do not feel any pain. The surgeon will make a cut (or cuts) in your ball sack (scrotum), and the tubes that carry the sperm will be identified, cut and sealed.

What are the possible risks?

As with all procedures, there are risks. These include:

- **Swelling** - caused by bleeding into the scrotum. This swelling will go down once the fluid is absorbed back into the bloodstream.
- **Bruising and bleeding** - the scrotum may become quite bruised and sore. The bruising should start to go down after a few days.
- **Wound infection** - which may need treatment with antibiotics.
- **Failed full sterilisation** - which may need a further procedure to correct.
- **Pain** in your testicles.—this will usually settle after a few days, but in a small number of cases, can be a long-term problem.

You will have time to discuss all these risks with the doctors and nursing staff before you consent to your procedure.

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or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Are there any alternatives?

Vasectomy is one of several forms of contraception available. Possible alternatives to having a vasectomy are the continued use of another form of contraception, such as condoms, or the oral contraceptive pill (for females). Female sterilisation may also be an option.

Important information

Please read the following important information:

- If you are ill, or cannot keep your appointment for some other reason, please let us know as early as possible. Another patient may benefit from the cancellation of your appointment.
- If you feel worried or nervous and want to talk to someone, please feel free to ring the nurses on the Day Case Unit (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4.30pm):

Leicester General Hospital: 0116 258 4192 (Day Case 1) / 0116 258 8130 (Day Case 2)

Outside these hours contact Urology Emergency Admissions (24 hours a day, 7 days a week):
0116 258 4247

What do I need to do before my procedure?

Read your admission letter carefully.

- Do not wear contact lenses.
- Do not wear any jewellery, except for a wedding ring.
- Do not bring any valuables with you into hospital. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to personal belongings.
- Do have a bath or shower before you come into hospital.
- Do wear comfortable clothing and supportive underwear to go home in.

Expect to wait on the unit before your procedure.

What do I need to bring with me?

- Your appointment letter. The time you are given to arrive is not the time of your procedure. The surgeon needs to see you before the start of the list, so you may be waiting for your procedure for between 2 and 4 hours.
- Any drugs, medicines or inhalers you are using. Please take your necessary medication before attending.
- A contact number for your lift home.
- A dressing gown and slippers, if you have them.
- Something to do while you are waiting, such as a book or magazine to read.

What will happen while I am on the Day Case Unit?

- You should come to the Day Case Unit and report to reception. Your details will be checked and you will be directed on to the ward or to the waiting room where a nurse will collect you.
- The nurse will talk to you about your procedure and ask you a few questions.
- You will meet one of the surgical team who will ask you to sign a consent form. If there is anything you are concerned about or do not understand, please ask your surgeon before you sign the form.
- The nurse will tell you when to change into your theatre gown, and then walk with you to the operating theatre.

What happens during the procedure?

In the theatre the surgeon will inject local anaesthetic into your ball sac (scrotum) to make it numb. It may take a few minutes for it to work and the vasectomy will take about 30 minutes. The area will remain numb for a few hours afterwards.

What happens after my procedure?

You will return to the day ward and staff will make sure you are comfortable, and provide you with refreshments. If you have any discomfort or sickness please let the staff know so that they can help you.

You will recover on the ward until your nurse is happy that you are well enough to go home. You will need to eat and drink before you can go home.

As this is a day case procedure patients normally go home on the same day, however very occasionally some patients may need to stay in overnight. If your doctor or nurse feels that this is necessary, they will explain to you the reasons for this.

Caring for your wound

Your wound will have dissolvable stitches (they do not need to be removed). Your surgeon may also have put a dressing over the wound, which should not be touched for 48 hours.

You should keep your wound dry for 48 hours, after which you can bath or shower as normal and you can remove the dressing.

After your bath or shower, gently rinse the wound with clean water, but do not rub the wound. Then carefully pat it dry with a clean towel. Wearing close-fitting underwear will help to support the wound.

Always keep the wound clean and dry. Do not be tempted to touch or pick the stitches. The healing process will take between 1 and 2 weeks and your stitches could take up to 4 weeks to dissolve.

Bruising and slight redness around the wound is usual and will not affect the healing. If you notice any increasing redness, swelling or discharge from the wound, you should contact the Day Case Unit for advice.

Pain control

You may have some pain after your procedure. You will need to buy some simple painkillers such as paracetamol. Take them regularly (following the instructions on the packet) for the first few days.

- Take painkillers when the pain starts. Do not wait for it to get really bad.
- Take painkillers before you go to sleep so you are able to rest.
- If your pain is very bad take the painkillers regularly, (4 times a day) so they keep your pain under control.
- Take painkillers when you wake up, so they are working before you get out of bed.
- Painkillers can cause constipation, so you should drink plenty of water, and eat some high fibre foods such as fruit, vegetables and cereals.
- Everyone is different. Do not be surprised if you are still having some pain for 1 or 2 weeks, this is quite normal.

When can I return to normal activities?

- **Driving** - you must not drive for the rest of the day. You will not be covered by your car insurance. Do not drive until you can keep control of your car in an emergency.
You should contact your insurance company if you are not sure.
- **Work** - the amount of time you need to be off work depends on your job, but will usually be around 3 or 4 days. Please discuss this with your surgeon or nurse.
- **Physical activity** - do not do too much too soon. It is usual to feel some aches and pains for a few days, perhaps up to 2 weeks (avoid strenuous activity, contact sports and heavy lifting for at least 2 weeks).
- **Holidays/ flying** - flying too soon after a procedure can increase the chance of problems, such as deep vein thrombosis, and you may not be covered by your insurance, please discuss this with your insurance company.
- **Sex** - you may resume your normal sexual activity as soon as you feel able, but you must not rely on the vasectomy as contraception until you have provided 1 semen sample which has no sperm in it. Because of this, you must use another form of contraception until you have received confirmation that your semen sample is clear of sperm (see next section).

How will I know if the vasectomy has worked?

To check that the procedure has been successful, you will need to provide a semen sample 18 weeks after your vasectomy. This sample will then be tested to make sure it is clear of sperm.

Please follow the instructions on the “PVSA” sheet which will be given to you before you leave the hospital. This gives you important information about how to produce the specimen sample and where and when to bring it in for testing.

Please note: as it takes a while for your system to become clear of sperm, you are advised to have ejaculated at least 20 times before providing the sample.

You will be given a specimen pot and a microbiology form before you leave the Day Case Unit.

18 weeks after your vasectomy, produce a specimen of semen directly into the pot. Check that the pot is correctly labelled with your full name, and that the date and time of collection of the specimen are written on the form.

If you have any questions, write them down here to remind you what to ask when you speak to your nurse/ doctor:

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
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