



SURGICAL SERVICES

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Our Ref: RJM/eag/Vas

Date – As post mark

Dear Patient

This is a quick letter to inform you if you haven't already heard about the recent study done at Harvard University in the USA (July 2014), which suggested a possible link between vasectomy and prostate cancer. Previous studies of which there have been many have failed to find a convincing link. However this recent study which involved 49,000 subjects over a 24 year period of follow up reported a 10% increase risk of prostate cancer in those men who had vasectomies. It is also suggested that these patients presented with more advanced prostate cancer and that the affect was greatest in men who had vasectomy at an earlier age, particularly men younger than 38 years. Another way of putting these facts is that during the 24 years of this study 12.4% of those who had a vasectomy developed prostate cancer compared with 12.1% of those who hadn't had a vasectomy. This represents an increase in relative risk BUT a small increase in terms of absolute risk (A 0.3% ABSOLUTE DIFFERENCE IN INCIDENCE RATE).

Being so new this has not featured in our pre-op advice previously and this letter is to inform you that this is now an issue for which you may want to reconsider your decision to go forwards with a vasectomy. There has been very little medical comment and you may want to access a web link on NHS Choices that summaries the subject and the web link is www.nhs.uk/news/2014/07july/pages/vasectomy-associated-prostate-cancer-risk-small.aspx.

Vasectomy remains a straightforward safe and effective means of contraception.

This is one study set against many previously that have failed to find a convincing link. You may wish to book an appointment to see myself or my colleague Dr Rupert Gabriel prior to having your vasectomy and you can do so by phoning Zara or Helen on 01225 898015.

Yours sincerely

Dr R J Matthews
Vasectomy Service