



No-Scalpel Technique - What is it?

Vasectomy is a simple operation which makes a man sterile. A man produces sperm in his testicles. The tubes which carry the sperm from the testicles up to the penis are cut and blocked during the operation so that the sperm cannot get into the semen (the fluid released when a man reaches a climax or 'comes').

The Vasectomy surgeon starts by putting an injection of local anaesthetic into the skin of the scrotum near the tubes. When this has taken effect he will make a small puncture wound in the skin so he can reach the tubes, cut each one and close the ends. No stitches are needed with the no-scalpel technique therefore the skin is allowed to close naturally.

Although no sperm can get past the block in the tubes, there are still many sperm in the tubes beyond the block. They are shed each time a man has intercourse or masturbates to climax. It usually takes several months to clear the tubes.

As the semen looks the same after vasectomy as before, the only way to know if the sperm have all gone is to send a sample to a laboratory to be checked.

At the time of your operation you will be given instructions about these checks. The first check is done 4 months after your operation. If this first check is clear then we will write to you and confirm that you no longer need to use contraception. If this is not clear we will send you another sample pot 1 month later. **Please use another contraceptive method until you get the letter from the surgeon to tell you that the checks are clear.**

Some men need to send more than two samples. We shall let them have the containers and packaging for these.

It is rare for fertility to return after vasectomy, but in very few cases this can happen. Even after a clear sample, the risk of pregnancy is about 1 in 2,000.