

## What is it?

This is the removal of a section of the vas from both sides. The vas is a tube which transports sperm from the testicles. This is a form of male contraception. Although it is not irreversible, it should be considered as irreversible as reversal is not usually available on the NHS.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be seen by a Urologist who will take a history and then examine the scrotum. The procedure will be explained and discussed with you as well as alternative methods of contraception.

## What are the alternatives?

- Other forms of male contraception i.e. condom
- Other forms of female contraception i.e. oral contraceptive pill

## What does surgery involve?

The procedure will be performed either under general or local anaesthesia. A small cut will be made in the both sides of the scrotum and the vas will be pulled out. A small section will then be cut from the vas to interrupt flow of sperm. The removed vas will be sent to the lab for analysis. The two cut ends will then be tied off and replaced in the scrotum with tissue placed between the ends to reduce the chances of the ends re-joining. The cuts will be closed with absorbable stitches.

## How long will I be in hospital?

You will normally go home the same day.

## What can I expect after discharge?

It is normal to experience swelling and pain within the scrotum. This usually settles but you may require simple pain killers. We would advise you to avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activities for at least 6 weeks. Supportive underwear may be helpful. The stitches will be dissolvable so will usually fall out by themselves over 4-6 weeks. The testicle may feel bulkier after the surgery.

## When am I infertile?

You will be asked to provide an ejaculation sample approximately 16 weeks after the procedure. You will also be asked to ensure that you have had at least 24 ejaculations to clear the tubes of all sperm before the test. If the test shows persistent sperm in your sample, you may be asked to provide another ejaculation sample a few weeks later.

You must continue using barrier contraception until you have received the all clear from your surgeon.

## What are the possible complications?

- Swelling, bruising and discomfort around the scrotum
- Bleeding and collection of blood within the scrotum (haematoma)
- Infection needing antibiotics
- Blood in the ejaculate the first few times after the procedure
- Chronic pain
- Early failure of the procedure (1 in 250)
- Late failure (1 in 2000)
- Infection or inflammation of the testicle or testis tube called epididymis

## What does failure mean?

Early failure suggests that the vas has not been removed. Your ejaculation sample will reveal sperm which are alive. The procedure will often need to be repeated.

Late failure may occur many years after the procedure. Your ejaculation sample would have revealed no living sperm, however the vasectomy ends may have re-joined. This may have resulted in a surprise pregnancy. The procedure could be repeated.