
Sperm retrieval from vas deferens or epididymis: procedure-specific information

What is the evidence base for this information?

This leaflet includes advice from consensus panels, the British Association of Urological Surgeons, the Department of Health and evidence-based sources; it is, therefore, a reflection of best practice in the UK. It is intended to supplement any advice you may already have been given by your GP or other healthcare professionals. Alternative treatments are outlined below and can be discussed in more detail with your Urologist or Specialist Nurse.

What does the procedure involve?

Sperm collection from vas deferens or epididymis for use in artificial fertilisation

What are the alternatives to this procedure?

Other forms of assisted conception.

What should I expect before the procedure?

You will usually be admitted on the same day as your surgery. You will normally receive an appointment for pre-assessment, approximately 14 days before your admission, to assess your general fitness, to screen for the carriage of MRSA and to perform some baseline investigations. After admission, you will be seen by members of the medical team which may include the Consultant, Specialist Registrar, House Officer and your named nurse.

You will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before surgery and, immediately before the operation, you may be given a pre-medication by the anaesthetist which will make you dry-mouthed and pleasantly sleepy.

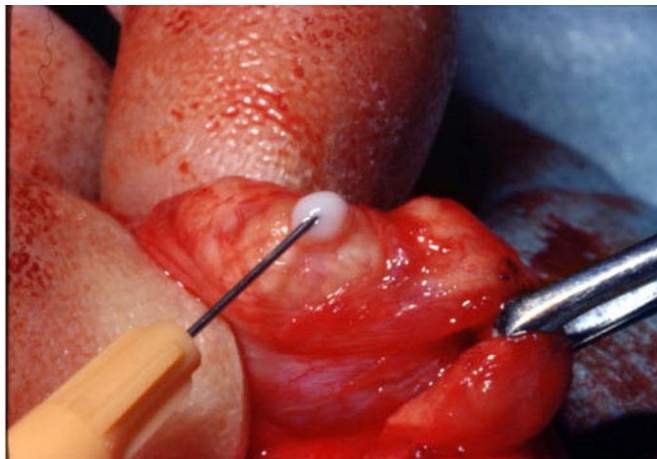
Please be sure to inform your Urologist in advance of your surgery if you have any of the following:

- an artificial heart valve
- a coronary artery stent
- a heart pacemaker or defibrillator
- an artificial joint
- an artificial blood vessel graft
- a neurosurgical shunt
- any other implanted foreign body
- a prescription for Warfarin, Aspirin or Clopidogrel (Plavix®)
- a previous or current MRSA infection

What happens during the procedure?

Either a full general anaesthetic (where you will be asleep throughout the procedure) or a spinal anaesthetic (where you are awake but unable to feel anything from the waist down) will be used. All methods minimise pain; your anaesthetist will explain the pros and cons of each type of anaesthetic to you.

The operation is usually performed either through a small incision in the scrotum or by simply puncturing the skin with a small catheter



What happens immediately after the procedure?

You may experience discomfort for a few days after the procedure but painkillers will be given to you to take home. If stitches are used they will be absorbable and do not require removal.

The average hospital stay is 2 days.

Are there any side-effects?

Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be reassured that, although all these complications are well-recognised, the majority of patients do not suffer any problems after a urological procedure.

Please use the check boxes to tick off individual items when you are happy that they have been discussed to your satisfaction:

Common (greater than 1 in 10)

- A small amount of scrotal bruising

Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)

- No guarantee that sperm will be obtained
- No guarantee that pregnancy will be achieved

Rare (less than 1 in 50)

- Worsening obstruction of the vas deferens or epididymis

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- Infection and/or bleeding in the scrotum or epididymis requiring surgical evacuation

Hospital-acquired infection (overall risk for Addenbrooke's)

- Colonisation with MRSA (0.9%, 1 in 110)
- Clostridium difficile bowel infection (0.2%; 1 in 500)
- MRSA bloodstream infection (0.08%; 1 in 1,250)

(These rates may be greater in high-risk patients e.g. with long-term drainage tubes, after removal of the bladder for cancer, after previous infections, after prolonged hospitalisation or after multiple admissions)

What should I expect when I get home?

Over the first few days, the scrotum and groins may become a little uncomfortable and bruised. The skin sutures (if used) do not need to be removed and will usually drop out after a couple of weeks; occasionally, they may take slightly longer to disappear.

You are advised to take 10-14 days off work after the operation and to avoid sexual intercourse until you feel completely comfortable.

When you leave hospital, you will be given a "draft" discharge summary of your admission. This holds important information about your inpatient stay and your operation. If, in the first few weeks after your discharge, you need to call your GP for any reason or to attend another hospital, please take this summary with you to allow the doctors to see details of your treatment. This is particularly important if you need to consult another doctor within a few days of your discharge.

What else should I look out for?

If you develop a temperature, increased redness, throbbing or drainage at the site of the operation, please contact your GP.

Are there any other important points?

Further follow-up will usually be with the Department of Reproductive Medicine who will advise you further on the chances of successful fertilisation

Is there any research being carried out in this field at Addenbrooke's Hospital?

There is no specific research in this area at the moment but all operative procedures performed in the department are subject to rigorous audit at a monthly Audit & Clinical Governance meeting.

Who can I contact for more help or information?

Oncology Nurses

- Uro-Oncology Nurse Specialist

01223 586748

- Bladder cancer Nurse Practitioner (haematuria, chemotherapy & BCG)
01223 274608
- Prostate cancer Nurse Practitioner
01223 216574

Non-Oncology Nurses

- Urology Nurse Practitioner (incontinence, urodynamics, catheter patients)
01223 274608 or 586748
- Urology Nurse Practitioner (stoma care)
01223 348665

Patient Advice & Liaison Centre (PALS)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 216756 or 257257
+44 (0)1223 274432 or 274431
- PatientLine
*801 (*from patient bedside telephones only*)
- E mail
pals@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
PALS, Box No 53
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

Chaplaincy and Multi-Faith Community

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 217769
- E mail
derek.fraser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
The Chaplaincy, Box No 105
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

MINICOM System ("type" system for the hard of hearing)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 274604

Access Office (travel, parking & security information)

- Telephone
+44 (0)1223 586969

What should I do with this form?

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information sheet. If you wish to sign it and retain a copy for your own records, please do so below.

If you would like a copy of this form to be filed in your hospital records for future reference, please let your Urologist or Specialist Nurse know. If you do, however, decide to proceed with the scheduled procedure, you will be asked to sign a separate consent form which will be filed in your hospital notes and you will, in addition, be provided with a copy of the form if you wish.

I have read this information sheet and I accept the information it provides.

Signature.....Date.....

How can I get information in alternative formats?

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Russian Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese 若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish Bu bilgiyi diğer dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya aşağıdaki adrese e-posta gönderin: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke anywhere on the site. Smoking increases the severity of some urological diseases and increases the risk of post-operative complications. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free on 0800 169 0 169

Document history

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