

What if I don't have my post vasectomy semen analysis?

The risk of failure vasectomy is less than 3.5% but failing to attend for testing could result in unplanned pregnancy due to residual sperm being present.

Your doctor cannot take any responsibility for this unless you complete the testing and receive written confirmation of clearance.

Research and waste

The portion of sample that is left after testing is normally disposed by incineration. However it can be used by ourselves or a third party for research or training and then disposed in the normal way.

We can send waste semen to a biotechnology company for isolating prostate specific antigen (PSA). This protein is only found in semen and can be used to create test kits for diagnosing prostate cancer. In this case the sperm cells are inactivated prior to this.

If you have any objections to your waste semen being used for this purpose then please tell laboratory staff and / or indicate this on your request card.

Queries

Please feel free to contact NUH Life on 0115 970 9417 if you require any further information about this test.

Your assurance of quality

The Fertility Unit at Queen's Medical Centre has provided a dedicated fertility service for over 30 years. Our laboratory runs a comprehensive quality control program and is enrolled in the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UKNEQAS).

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

Freephone: 0800 183 0204

From a mobile or abroad:

0115 924 9924 ext 65412 or 62301

E-mail: pals@nuh.nhs.uk

Letter: NUH NHS Trust, c/o PALS,
Freepost NEA 14614,
Nottingham NG7 1BR

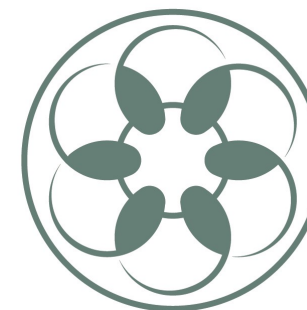
www.nuh.nhs.uk

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Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis

Information for patients

NUH Life



This document can be provided in different languages and formats. For more information please contact:

THE LIFE

A Floor, West Block
Queen's Medical Centre
Derby Road
Nottingham NG7 2UH
Tel: 0115 970 9417

Post vasectomy semen analysis - what is it?

For a while after having a vasectomy a man can still produce semen containing potentially fertile sperm.

Your doctor has referred you for this test to confirm that your vasectomy has been successful. It should be performed no sooner than **16 weeks** after your operation.

We advise you to regularly ejaculate after your operation (using contraception) to help remove any residual sperm from your system.

What do I have to do now?

1. Ensure that your referring doctor has provided you with a completed yellow request card, sterile container and a specimen bag.
2. Book a time and date for your post vasectomy semen analysis. Please call NUH Life directly on 0115 9709417. We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment.

Appointments are available:

Monday - Friday (8am - 3pm). It is advisable to ring two weeks in advance to make your appointment.

You may produce your sample at home if you can deliver it to the hospital within **two** hours. We have a specimen production room available if you wish to produce your sample on site.

Please let us know when you book your appointment if you require this facility.

In order to obtain an optimum sample you are required to abstain from any sexual activity (masturbation or intercourse) for two to three days but no longer than seven days prior to your appointment date.

How do I collect the sample?

1. Ensure that your full name and date of birth are written on your container and ensure that the sterile seal is intact.
2. Be hygienic - wash your hands and genitals.
3. Produce your sample by masturbation into a sterile container. Please ensure that you attempt to collect all the semen produced and please inform us if you don't.
4. Once the sample has been collected please ensure that the lid is screwed tightly on and place the container into the sealable bag.
5. Ensure that you bring the fully completed request form with you to the hospital as we are unable to accept your sample without this.
6. If delivering the sample from home please aim to arrive at the hospital within **two** hours. Please attend as close to your appointment time as possible. We regret that if you are more than 30 minutes late we may not be able to perform your test. You should therefore give yourself ample time to arrive, especially if travelling by car as parking can often be difficult.
7. Keep the sample close to the body i.e. in your pocket whilst travelling to the hospital as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperature.

Where do I deliver the sample to?

The result of your test is dependant on us receiving your sample within one hour so you must deliver it directly to NUH Life, A Floor West Block, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham.

How do I get my results?

You will receive a letter with the results of your tests around two to three weeks after you have completed the testing required by your doctor.

We are normally unable to give the results out over the phone and you should contact your referring doctor in the first instance.

You should carry on using an alternative method of contraception until you have received written confirmation of the success of your vasectomy (clearance).

Repeat tests

If you attend for testing earlier than the recommend 16 weeks there is an increased chance of finding traces of sperm in your sample.

Even after 16 weeks some men may still have traces of sperm. In these cases your doctor may refer you for further testing around 28 weeks after your operation.

Special clearance

Occasionally sperm can linger in the tubes leading from the testicles after 28 weeks. There is no real explanation for this and it doesn't mean that your vasectomy has failed. In this case your doctor may grant you 'special clearance' which means that the sperm left are not viable and could not achieve a pregnancy.