



Please make an APPOINTMENT for **ALL** Post Vasectomy Semen Analyses.

Appointments can be booked online at:

[www.tdlpathology.com/andrologybooking](http://www.tdlpathology.com/andrologybooking)

Alternatively, ask your patient to phone directly, or please arrange appointments for him, on this telephone number:

**020 7025 7940**

It may be necessary to give patients who attend without an appointment a specific time to re-attend.

**First appointments are usually at least 12 weeks and 20 ejaculations after vasectomy.**

If producing a sample at home, please ask the patient to telephone to give an approximate time that he will be dropping off the sample

- Please complete a request form for your patient to bring to reception
- Ideally, patients need 2 – 3 days sexual abstinence for the test, but not less than 2 days and not more than 5 days. Patients who are non-compliant may need to reschedule their appointment.
- It is preferential for patients to attend Wimpole Street but if this is not possible, samples must be delivered within 60 minutes.
- For patients producing samples at home, please ask them to **read** the Instructions for Collection of Semen Samples.
- When your patient brings the sample into the laboratory, they will be asked to fill out an Information Form to accompany their sample
- Batch tested sample containers will be provided by TDL for patients who are unable to produce a sample at Wimpole Street. Patients **must** use these containers only.
- Patient reception is at 76 Wimpole Street, London W1G 9RT.
- Results for a Post Vasectomy analysis will usually be reported within 24 -48 hours.

**If you have any queries, please call the Andrology Laboratory on 020 7025 7940**



## PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT POST VASECTOMY ANALYSIS

Vasectomy is one of the safest and reliable forms of contraception for men. Immediately after vasectomy, almost all ejaculates will contain potentially fertile sperm, so initially patients are advised to continue with other contraceptive methods. A few days following vasectomy and usually by three weeks, sperm remaining within the male reproductive tract rapidly become immotile, and may well be present for several weeks following surgery.

UK Recommendations\* state that the first semen analysis should be conducted 12 weeks post vasectomy and that the patient should have had a minimum of 20 ejaculations. By this time, the majority of patients will no longer have any sperm in their ejaculates.

### **Recommendations\***

Recommendations, as given by the Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons 2016, are as follows:

- 1) Analysis of post vasectomy semen samples should not occur until 12 weeks post-surgery and after a minimum of 20 ejaculates
- 2) Semen samples must be analysed within 4hrs of production, and in cases where sperm is found a repeat analysis must be performed within 1hr of production
- 3) Semen should be produced in screened specimen containers provided by TDL Andrology
- 4) Sexual abstinence should be between 2 and 7 days

### **Clearance - When can we dispense with contraception?**

The UK guidelines state that clearance may only be given and contraception dispensed with, when there is no evidence of presence of sperm in a single ejaculate when all recommendations\* are met.

### **Can recanalisation occur after clearance has been given?**

Vasectomy operations are not 100% successful and there is always a small failure rate of between one in two to three thousand cases. In rare cases, sperm may reappear in ejaculates 12 months after surgery (recanalisation), despite previous sperm free ejaculates. This means there is a very low chance that your partner might conceive in the future

### **What if I have sperm in my ejaculate?**

Clearance cannot be given if there are motile sperm in the ejaculate because they could result in a pregnancy.

### **Why do I need to have my sample assessed within an hour of production?**

It is very important to establish that any sperm seen in the ejaculate have no motility and, if possible, confirm that they are not alive, in order to give special clearance. As sperm motility rapidly declines after ejaculation, it is therefore essential that they are assessed within one hour of production in order to give a reliable result.

### **Is abstinence time important?**

Ideally before your test you should abstain from ejaculation for between 2-7 days. If it is less than 2 days there is a possibility that sperm levels will not have sufficient time to be replenished and you may find a completely unreliable result of no sperm being reported. On the other hand, if abstinence is more than 7 days then any sperm present may die and therefore a false result of dead/immotile sperm may be reported.

### **What if I have persistent sperm in the ejaculate with no motility?**

Sometimes, there may be persistent numbers of non-motile sperm in ejaculates with as many as 10% of men showing sperm in their ejaculates 6 months after surgery. The risk of a pregnancy occurring from apparently non-motile sperm is negligible and probably no more than the risk of pregnancy after two apparently sperm-free samples as a result of spontaneous recanalisation. In cases of persistent non-motile sperm, i.e. after 24 ejaculations and 7 months post surgery, men may be given special clearance by their clinician to discontinue other contraceptive precautions following appropriate counselling regarding the risk of pregnancy.

### **References:**

P Hancock, BJ Woodward, A Muneer and JC Kirkman-Brown "2016 Laboratory guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis: Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons" *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 69(7):655-60

Association of Biomedical Andrologists Laboratory Guidelines for Good Practice Version 3 – 2012.