

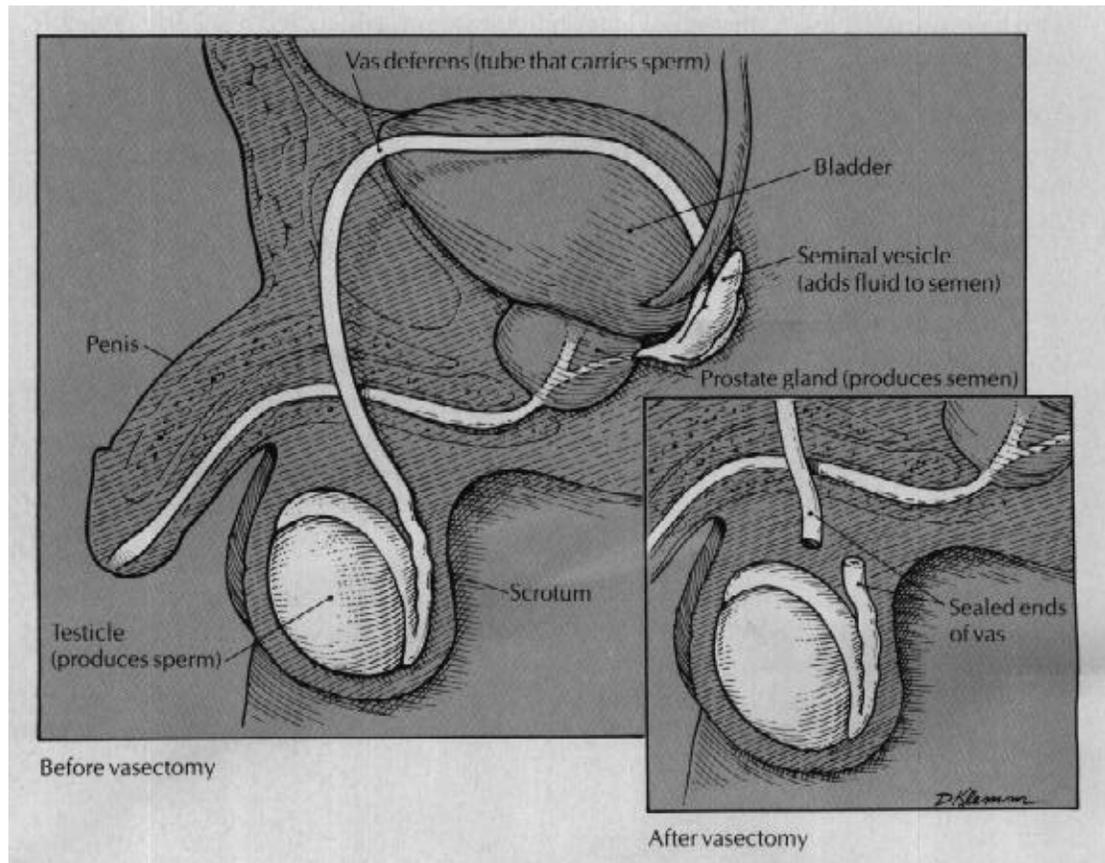


# No Scalpel Vasectomy

You and your partner should read this information carefully and discuss it together. The two of you should discuss any concerns about the vasectomy with your doctor when you both come in for the pre-vasectomy consultation. Remember, vasectomy should be thought of as a **permanent** form of birth control.

## What is a Vasectomy?

A vasectomy is a minor operation that makes a man **permanently sterile** (unable to father further children). Vasectomy is more successful and costs less than the surgery women have that makes them sterile (called tubal ligation). The Doctor cuts and blocks the two tiny tubes (vas deferens) in the scrotum. See the drawing below:



## How is a vasectomy done?

The vasectomy will be performed in our office using local numbing medication. Before the surgery, you will have already taken a mild sedative (Ativan) at home. Your doctor will make a small opening in the front of the scrotum and through this gently lift out each vas deferens and cut it. The flow of sperm is stopped by sealing the loose ends of the tubes by both burning the inside of the tube and tying the tube shut with suture. The procedure usually takes from 30-45 minutes and causes little discomfort.

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After the vasectomy, you will apply an ice bag for 8 hours and you should rest for 48 hours. Most men can return to work on the second or third day. You will have a very small scar on the scrotum, which will be nearly invisible when it is healed.

## Are there any risks to the operation?

Vasectomy has some minor risks. However, most men have no problems, and most of the problems that may occur are not serious and can be easily treated. Problems that may occur include the following:

- Minor infection around the puncture site on the scrotum.
- Swelling (hematoma) or bruising of the scrotum.
- A pea-sized lump (sperm granuloma).
- Failure to become sterile (3/1000 Men).

## Will I be sterile right after the vasectomy?

No. Wait until your doctor tells you that your semen is free of sperm - you must bring in two specimens, at 2 months and at 4 months, after the operation. You must continue to use reliable birth control until the four month specimen is clear of sperm.

## Will a vasectomy change my sexual ability?

No. A vasectomy won't change your sexual ability or pleasure. Some men report a better sex life because they don't have to worry about an unwanted pregnancy.

## Before vasectomy instructions

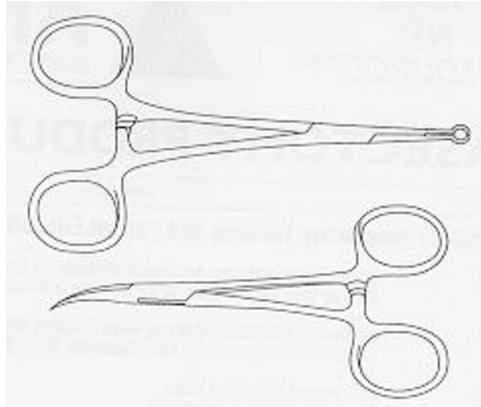
- Don't take blood thinners such as aspirin or aspirin-containing products for two weeks before and one week after your vasectomy.
- Shower the evening before and again on the day of your vasectomy.
- Bring an athletic supporter (jock strap) with you to wear after the vasectomy.
- Bring someone with you who can drive you to and from the office.

## After vasectomy instructions

- Keep the incision clean and dry. You may shower any time, but no swimming or tub bath for 72 hours or until the incision is healed.
- Wear an athletic supporter for 48 hours or as long as it feels comfortable.
- Keep an ice pack on your scrotum (outside the athletic supporter) for eight hours after the operation.
- Limit your activities during the first two days, because this will help reduce swelling, discomfort and bleeding. Most men return to work two to three days after a vasectomy.
- Don't ejaculate for one week after the vasectomy. You may start having sex again after the first week, but only using reliable birth control until your doctor tells you that you are sterile.
- Bring a semen sample to your doctor's office when you are told to. The sample will be looked at under a microscope to check for sperm. You will be called later in the day and told about the results.

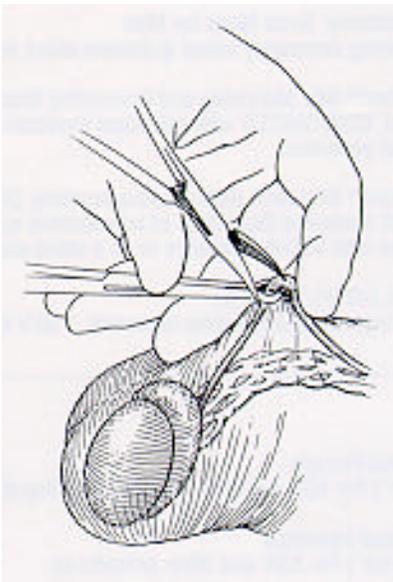
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## Instruments

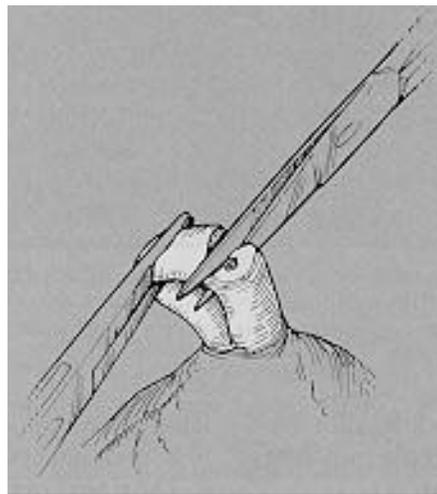


No scalpel is used to cut an opening in the scrotum in this procedure. The two special instruments pictured above are used to make a small 1/4" opening in the center of the scrotum and into the vas deferens as shown below. Both tubes (vas deferens) are then carefully pulled through this small opening as shown below. Each tube is then cut, burned, and tied one at a time. Generally no stitches are needed to close this opening, instead a small tape dressing is all that is needed.

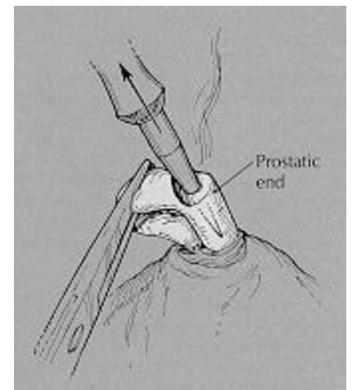
## Procedure



Piercing the scrotum and tube



Cutting the Vas Deferens



Burning the inside of Vas