

Pioneer Health Vasectomy Information Sheet

Vasectomy refers to a sterilization procedure for males. The procedure involves cutting and tying both vas deferentia, (the tubes that carries sperm from the testicles.)

At Pioneer Health, we are pleased to able to offer patients a vasectomy service. This procedure is performed by Dr David Tadj, who has some 20 years of experience with vasectomies.

What patients need to know about vasectomy:

- Vasectomy should be assumed to be irreversible. It is only suitable for men who are absolutely certain that they, and their partner, wish for no future children. Whilst there are microsurgical procedures available that aim to reverse vasectomies, these are not always successful. Vasectomy reversal is often unsuccessful if the vasectomy has been performed some years ago. Vasectomy is generally not recommended to males under 30 years of age.
- The vasectomy procedure has a failure rate of approximately 1:2000. There are a number of reasons why the procedure may not be successful, including abnormal anatomy and the vas deferens re-joining.
- Vasectomy has a number of potential complications, which include failure to achieve sterility, bleeding, infection and pain. A small percentage of vasectomy patients report chronic scrotal pain following the procedure, (i.e. pain or discomfort lasting months or even years after the procedure.)
- Patients are not sterile immediately post vasectomy. This is because there are stored sperm in the seminal vesicles. Patients are advised to continue usual contraceptive precautions for 3 months post vasectomy. At that time a semen sample is collected and analysed and if no sperm are detected, the patient is deemed to be sterile and can stop contraceptive precautions.
- Following vasectomy, sexual function and ejaculation should be unchanged. The sperm make up less than 1% of the seminal volume. Hence the volume and appearance of the ejaculate will not be noticeably change with vasectomy.
- The procedure usually takes 10 to 20 minutes and can be performed under local or general anaesthetic.

The **local anaesthetic (LA) procedure** involves injecting local anaesthetic into scrotal skin and performing the procedure whilst the patient is awake. The advantages of having the procedure under local anaesthetic, is that the patient can avoid an admission to the day procedure unit of the local hospital and avoid the potential risks of a general anaesthetic. The drawbacks of doing the procedure under local anaesthetic is that the patient will experience more discomfort during the procedure, the procedure is technically more difficult for the operator, and the operator may not be able to access the ideal operating environment of the hospital theatre.

The **general anaesthetic (GA) procedure** involves the patient presenting to the Albany Health Campus day procedure unit and then receiving a general anaesthetic prior to the procedure. The advantages of a GA procedure include that the patient has no discomfort during the procedure, the procedure is technically less difficult for the operator, and the procedure is performed in the ideal surgical environment of a hospital main theatre. The disadvantages of a general anaesthetic procedure, include the risks of an anaesthetic, and the additional time required to check into the day procedure unit and recover from the anaesthetic. The risk of a serious adverse event related to a general anaesthetic is approximately 1:10;000. The anaesthetist will usually ask to see you prior to the GA procedure to ensure that the patient is fit for the anaesthetic. It generally requires a whole morning or afternoon to be admitted, have the procedure and recover from the anaesthetic. You are also unable to drive following the general anaesthetic, when discharged from the day procedure unit.

Please note:

- Dr Tadj prefers patients to be at least 30 years of age before presenting for vasectomy. He also prefers to perform the procedure under general anaesthetic. Patients are welcome to have the procedure under local anaesthetic, but will generally be referred to a specialist surgeon for LA procedures. Likewise, patients with a history of previous scrotal or testicular surgery, pre-existing scrotal pain or pathology, and anxiety about their vasectomy procedure are usually offered referrals to a specialist surgeon.
- If you would like to proceed with your vasectomy under general anaesthetic, please make an appointment to see Dr Tadj at Pioneer Health Albany. During the consultation Dr Tadj will assess your suitability for vasectomy, provide you with information and complete a consent and booking form. Once a vasectomy is agreed on, the practice will liaise with the local hospital and the patient to arrive at a suitable date and time of the surgery. This process may take several weeks. You will generally also be asked to see an anaesthetist prior to your procedure.

By signing this document, I have read and understood the above pre-operative information sheet.

Patient Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ___/___/___

Doctor Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ___/___/___