

Post-vasectomy Semen Analysis

Why do I need a post-vasectomy semen analysis?

Approximately 12 weeks after your operation you are required to produce a semen sample to confirm whether your vasectomy has been successful. During the analysis we will not only check for the presence of sperm but also whether any sperm seen are motile and have fertilisation potential.

Some sperm can remain in the vas deferens in the months following your procedure. It is important that you have ejaculated (via masturbation or with contraception) over 20 times before your post-vasectomy semen analysis to help clear out any sperm that have remained.

How do I get an appointment?


Once you have been referred to us by a clinician you will be able to book in for your appointment online using the NHS e-Referral service. After you have booked in, we will send you out a pack to the address provided to us. This pack will contain instructions, a production form and sample pot. These instructions must be read in advance of your appointment.

If you have any questions, please contact the laboratory on 0151 702 4214.

We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment.

How can I produce the sample?

Samples should be collected by masturbation. Do not produce your sample using lubricants, condoms or through the withdrawal method. If you are unable to ejaculate by masturbation, special condoms for use at home may be provided in exceptional circumstances. However, the entire ejaculate will not be available for examination, and the

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specimen is likely to be contaminated by contact with the skin of the penis and to some extent also vaginal fluid and cells on the outside of the condom.

How do I collect the sample?

- In order to obtain an optimum sample you are required to abstain from any sexual activity (masturbation or intercourse) before your appointment. Please ejaculate 4 days before your appointment and then again 2 days before your appointment. Do not ejaculate again until you are producing your sample for analysis.
- Produce your sample by masturbation into the non-toxic sterile pot provided in your pack. Your pot must be labelled with your name, DOB and hospital identification number.
- Please do not attempt to produce your sample into any other type of specimen pot.
- Please ensure you attempt to collect all of the semen produced.
- Once the sample has been collected please ensure the lid is screwed on tightly and place the pot inside the sealable bag provided.
- Ensure you bring the fully completed request form with you to the hospital. We cannot accept your sample until this has been completed correctly.
- The pot must not be exposed to extremes of temperature either before or after sample production. If you are concerned about this, please speak to a member of staff.

Where can I produce the sample?

You may produce your sample at home if you can deliver it to the laboratory at your allotted appointment time **preferably within 30 minutes after collection and at least no longer than 50 minutes after collection**. Whilst travelling from home it is important you keep the sample close to the body under clothes during transportation (for example, in a pocket) as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperature. If preferable, your partner may deliver your sample and completed production form.


If you cannot deliver your sample to the laboratory within 50 minutes of ejaculation or would rather produce your sample on site, we have private production rooms available for use.

Where do I need to go?

Your chosen appointment location will be listed in your semen analysis pack.

Liverpool – The Lewis-Jones Andrology Department at the Liverpool Women’s Hospital (L8 7SS) is situated on the second floor. Please follow signs for the Hewitt Fertility Centre and our waiting room is situated next door.

Knutsford – The Andrology laboratory is situated on the ground floor of The Hewitt Fertility Centre, Knutsford (WA16 8ZR). Upon arrival, please report to reception and a member of staff will be able to assist you.

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Ormskirk – The Seminology laboratory is located within the Gynaecology and Maternity department at Ormskirk District General Hospital (L39 2AZ). From the main entrance of the hospital please continue two thirds of the way up through the main corridor and turn right.

How do I get my results?

Your results will be sent back to your referring clinician approximately 14 days after your post-vasectomy semen analysis. You should continue to use an alternative method of contraception until you have received confirmation of the success of your vasectomy, also known as clearance.

Repeat tests

If you have not ejaculated 20 times or it has not been 12 weeks since the operation you may be asked to repeat the test at a later date. You may also be asked to repeat the test if there are any sperm seen in your sample.

The presence of sperm doesn't necessarily mean your vasectomy has been unsuccessful since some sperm may remain in the vas deferens for a while after the operation. If invited, it is important that you attend your repeat test as it will help to confirm whether all residual sperm have been cleared out of the vas deferens or if the procedure has in fact failed. It is important to know that clearance is only given to patients when the clinician can be sure that they could not achieve a pregnancy. Failure to attend your post-vasectomy semen analysis could result in an unplanned pregnancy.

Research and waste


The portion of your sample that is left over after post-vasectomy semen analysis is disposed of by incineration. In some cases, it may be used by us for training or research.

Queries

Please feel free to contact the laboratory on 0151 702 4214 if you require any further information about this test.

Quality

The Lewis-Jones Andrology department at the Hewitt Fertility Centre has provided a dedicated Andrology service for over 10 years. We were the first Andrology laboratory to be accredited for quality and competence by the UK Accreditation Scheme (UKAS). Our laboratory is also enrolled in the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UK NEQAS) which helps to ensure clinical laboratory test results are accurate, reliable and comparable wherever they are produced.

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Feedback


If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of your care or treatment please speak to a member of staff. After your appointment you may receive a text message asking you to complete a survey about our service. We appreciate and encourage feedback.

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This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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