

Post-vasectomy Semen Analysis (Liverpool)

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?

You will need to be referred to us by a clinician. Once we have received your referral we will send you out a pack to the address provided to us. This pack will contain instructions, a production form, sample pot and appointment information. **These instructions must be read in advance of attempting to produce your sample.**

If you cannot make the appointment we have sent you please contact the laboratory on 0151 702 4214 in advance to reschedule. We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment. Appointments for post-vasectomy semen analysis are available Monday to Friday.

How can I produce the sample?

Samples should be collected by masturbation. **Do not** produce your sample using lubrication, condoms or through coitus interruptus.

If you are unable to masturbate, special non-toxic condoms designed specifically for the collection of semen samples are available for use at home. Please ask in advance of your appointment if this is something you require.

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) for a minimum of 2-3 days, but no more than 7 days, before your appointment date.
- 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 laboratory identification number.
- 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.

Document Code: SCI-AND-FORM-112	Version No: 3	Document Title: Post-vasectomy Patient Information Leaflet	
Date of issue: 26.05.2021	Date of review: 26.05.2023	Owner: S Brooks	Author: O Sandys

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 and **within one hour of collection**. We are located on the second floor of Liverpool Women's Hospital. Please follow signs for the Hewitt Fertility Centre. Whilst travelling from home it is important you keep the sample close to the body 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 one hour of ejaculation or would rather produce your sample on site, we have private, sound-proof production rooms available for use.

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

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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.

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

The Lewis-Jones Andrology Department,
Hewitt Fertility Centre,
Liverpool Women's Hospital
Crown Street,
L8 7SS
0151 702 4214

<https://www.thehewittfertilitycentre.org.uk>

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

Hewitt Fertility Centre
Crown Street
Liverpool
L8 7SS
Tel: 0151 702 4121 / 4123
Email: Hewitt.Centre@lwh.nhs.uk

4 The Pavilions
Knutsford Business Park
Mobberley Road
Knutsford
WA16 8ZR
Tel: 01565 653287