

Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina, Inc.

Toll Free 1-866-942-7762

Chapel Hill Health Center
1765 Dobbins Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Durham Health Center
105 Newsom Street, Suite 101
Durham, NC 27704

Fayetteville Health Center
4551 Yadkin Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Client Information for Informed Consent

VASECTOMY

What is Vasectomy?

Vasectomy is a form of birth control for men. It is meant to be permanent. It works by blocking the tubes — the vas deferens — that carry sperm. It keeps sperm out of semen. Semen is ejaculated, but it cannot cause pregnancy. It takes 3 months before it begins to work.

Vasectomy is one of the most effective methods of birth control. There is a small risk of failure. When men have their semen checked after vasectomy, there is less than 1 pregnancy per 100 women during the first year.

Vasectomy is intended to be permanent. Reversing it is difficult and costly. It often doesn't work, and causing a pregnancy may not be possible. A man must be certain that he does not want to cause future pregnancies before he chooses this method.

How is vasectomy done?

Vasectomy is done in the clinic or office. We may give you medicine to help you relax. The doctor will clean the scrotal area. Numbing medicine will then be injected in the area. Through a small hole or cut in the skin of the scrotum, the doctor finds both tubes that carry sperm to the penis and cuts or blocks them. Usually, a small section of each tube is removed.

What happens after vasectomy?

You can go home the same day. You may have some pain, swelling and bruising in the area. This is normal.

You must bring in a semen sample 12 weeks after your vasectomy. It needs to be tested to make sure that you are sterile. We will give you instructions for this. You need to use another method of birth control until we tell you that you are sterile.

Why have vasectomy?

It is a highly effective method of birth control for men who do not want more children. It is safe and convenient. It allows the man to take responsibility for birth control. It may increase enjoyment and frequency of sex.

Vasectomy does not protect against sexually transmitted infection. If you or your partner have other sex partners, use a latex or female condom to reduce the risk of infection.

What are the risks of vasectomy?

- **Infection** — serious infection in the skin, tubes, or testicles. Treatment with antibiotics, or very rarely, surgery, may be needed.
- **Hematoma** — bleeding under the skin that may cause swelling or bruising. It usually clears on its own. It may need medical treatment or surgery.
- **Adhesion** — Very rarely, skin attaches to the tube or a connection is formed between the tube and skin — a fistula. This may need surgery.
- **Hydrocele** — fluid build-up in the scrotum that may clear on its own. It may need surgery.
- **Spermatic Granuloma** — swelling caused by leakage of sperm from the tube that usually clears on its own. It may need to be drained.

- **Pain** —Very rarely, there may be severe scrotal or testicular pain that lasts for months or years.
- **Recanalization** — Rarely, the cut ends of the tubes may grow back together. Pregnancy may occur.
- **Sexual Problems** — Rarely — in about 4 out of 1,000 cases — decreased sexual desire or inability to have an erection is reported (about 4 out of 1,000 cases). The most likely causes are emotional. There is no physical cause.

Other choices

There are other methods of birth control that can be used by you and your partner(s). The only other method that is intended to be permanent is sterilization for the woman.

Warning Signs — Call the health center if you have

- fever (over 100.4° F)
- blood or pus coming from the site of the incision
- bad pain or swelling

It is very important that you understand this information. We are happy to answer your questions.

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EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER
Call the health center at (866) 942-7762

Signature of client

Date

I witness the patient received this information, said he read and understood it, and had an opportunity to ask questions.

Signature of witness

Date