

Procedure: Vasectomy

You and your doctor are considering a procedure called a vasectomy. The procedure consists of making two small surgical cuts in the scrotal sac (the bag that contains the testicles) and cutting and tying up the tubes that carry the sperm or "seed." Today, this procedure is usually performed to sterilize the patient. A man that has been sterilized is unable to make a woman pregnant; he is unable to father a child. This procedure does not ordinarily have any effect on a man's enjoyment of intercourse or his ability to have intercourse. A small percentage of patients do have mental difficulties after having a vasectomy. These mental difficulties could result in an interference with normal sexual function and normal social behavior. Your doctor can make no guarantee as to the results that might be obtained from this operation.

The vasectomy procedure is quite simple and the majority of patients do not have any problems during or after surgery. The operation is usually done under local anesthesia. This means that the physician will inject a medicine into the scrotal sac to numb the skin there. This anesthesia is very safe, although there have been rare reports of severe allergic reactions in medical literature. Conceivably, a person could have heart stoppage and stop breathing from the effects of the anesthetic.

A very small percentage of vasectomies are complicated by infection and damage to the testicles. This could result in an unsightly and painful scar, a chronically draining wound, pain and swelling in the scrotal sac and testicle, infection in the urinary system, and prolonged illness. There are other potential complications from the procedure you are considering. However, it is not possible to advise you of every imaginable complication. The purpose of this form is not to frighten or upset you; it is to insure that your decision to have a vasectomy is not made in ignorance of the risks and side effects of this kind of procedure. The harmful complications referred to are very unlikely.

You should be advised that the vasectomy procedure is not immediately effective. Until the doctor tests you after the procedure and finds that you are sterile, you cannot engage in intercourse without the risk of making a woman pregnant. Usually vasectomy results in permanent sterility. In a very small percentage of patients, the tubes that carry the sperm open up by themselves. This could result in an unexpected and unwanted pregnancy.

If you should decide after the procedure that you do want to father a child, you will need to have a second procedure. Only about 30% of patients who have this second procedure can father children after it has been done, so your doctor cannot guarantee that you can be fertile again. Because of this, you should consider that the vasectomy will make you permanently unable to father children.

Additional Risks: _____
(To be filled in by _____
the physician as _____
necessary)

I certify that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I understand the risks and side effects of this operation; all blanks or statements requiring insertion or completion were filled in, or crossed out before I signed. I hereby request and authorize Dr. _____ to perform a vasectomy procedure on me.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Witness: _____

Print Name: _____