Frequently asked questions

What if I cannot produce a sample?

Simply tell the Andrology staff and they will ask you to telephone booking office to arrange another appointment. They can provide you with a sample pot if you would rather bring the sample from home next time.

What if I cannot provide a sample by masturbation?

Arrange with Andrology prior to your appointment for a sample pot and a special condom (which doesn't kill the sperm) to be posted or collected from the department.

You can then bring the sample from home at your appointment time.

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The Andrology Department

Your appointment is on the second floor at the Birmingham Women's Hospital.

Report to the reception desk at The Fertility Centre.

If you cannot attend please contact the booking office Tel: 0121 627 2786.

Your sample

It is preferred that you produce your sample at the hospital; if you are unable to produce a sample on site bring the sample with you at the appointment time. The sample MUST NOT BE MORE THAN 2 HOURS OLD.

When producing on site, please arrive 5-10 minutes before your appointment time. If you are more than 15 minutes late we may not be able to perform your test.

When bringing the sample from home:

- Keep it at body temperature close to the body i.e. in a jacket pocket.
- Get it to the Andrology Department no later than 2 hours after it has been produced.
- Tell reception that you have a post vasectomy sample with you.

Your appointment

Try not to have any sexual activity for 2 - 7 days before your appointment.

Ensure that you have ejaculated approximately 24 times after having your vasectomy.

The receptionist will check your details and give you a form to fill in.

You will be shown to the waiting room to complete your form.

A member of the Andrology Team will show you to a private room.

If you have brought your sample with you, ensure that your full name and date of birth are written on the container.

For onsite production, you will be given a sample pot and left to provide a semen sample by masturbation. Your partner can attend with you if you wish.

Prior to producing your sample please wash your hands and genitals. Make sure you rinse thoroughly to remove all soap then carefully dry.

Ensure that you collect all of the semen sample produced. If not, please inform the Andrology team.

What is the test for?

After having a vasectomy a man will still have sperm in his semen. This should clear after 16 weeks or approximately 24 ejaculations.

Your doctor has referred you for this test to confirm that your vasectomy has been successful. You will be required to produce 2 semen samples;

The first sample at 16 weeks.
The second sample at 22-24 weeks.

DURING THIS TIME YOU SHOULD TAKE CONTRACEPTIVE PRECAUTIONS UNTIL CLEARANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY YOUR SURGEON OR DOCTOR.

If Sperm are seen in the first post vasectomy test you will be required to produce your second semen sample on site so that we can assess any motile sperm.

Rarely re-canalandization occurs— this is when the VAS deferens re-join after surgery, this is detected by semen assessment.

After your second semen test the surgeon or your GP will give you your results and advice regarding the success of your vasectomy.