

### **What is vasectomy?**

Vasectomy is a highly effective type of male birth control that is designed to be permanent.

### **What is no-scalpel vasectomy?**

The operation includes making a single opening into the scrotal sac (the bag that contains the testicles) and blocking the sperm ducts so that sperm are not included in the ejaculation.

### **What are the benefits of no-scalpel vasectomy?**

- Procedure is completed in a doctor's office
- A very small opening is made which heals without stitches; no incision is necessary
- Procedure is done with local anesthesia to numb the scrotum
- Recovery usually involves only a few days of rest before resuming normal activities
- Complication rate for no-scalpel vasectomy is less than 1%

### **How much pain will there be?**

Vasectomies do not cause much pain.

- Most men report that they only experience the sting of the needle giving the anesthetic.
- Once the area is numbed, there is no discomfort for about 1 ½ - 2 hours.
- After the vasectomy, ice packs and mild pain medication can be used for any pain, if needed.

### **How long does it take?**

The whole visit will take less than 60 minutes; the procedure itself about 15 minutes.

### **What happens to the sperm?**

Sperm cells are still produced by the testicles, but after a vasectomy the sperm cells have no place to go. Like all the other dead cells in the body, they dissolve and are then absorbed by the body. This is a natural process.

### **How soon can a couple stop using birth control?**

A man will **not** be sterile right after the operation.

- Sperm will stay in the male reproductive system for up to four months (usually two months).
- Another birth control method must be used until no sperm present on a sperm count.
- Vasectomies do not prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

### **How effective is a vasectomy?**

Effectiveness of a vasectomy is judged by pregnancy rates following vasectomy, which range from 0 – 2%. Most reports claim pregnancy rates of less than 1%.

**Will vasectomy affect the enjoyment of sex?**

Erections, climaxes and ejaculations continue after vasectomy as they did before. Sometimes the removal of fear of accidental pregnancy may add a greater sense of pleasure.

**What are the risks of no scalpel vasectomy?**

Vasectomy in general is safe and simple, and there are fewer complications associated with no-scalpel vasectomy. Most postoperative complications of vasectomy are minor and can be treated with mild non-aspirin painkillers and local application of ice. The following problems will usually subside within 1-2 weeks:

- Swelling and/or tenderness of the scrotum
- Bruising
- Pain

More significant complications are generally quite rare, but include:

- An infection or swelling around the opening(s) or inside your scrotum
- Bleeding under the skin that might cause swelling or bruising
- Sperm that leak from the ends of the cut tubes and produce small hard lumps (granuloma) at the site of the operation. The majority of sperm granulomas are asymptomatic. In some cases, they require surgical treatment.

Serious long-term problems associated with vasectomy are rare. However, while postoperative vasectomy pain usually subsides within 1-2 weeks, some men report chronic testicular pain or discomfort following vasectomy.

Most cases of post-vasectomy pain can be treated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, sitz baths, antibiotics, or spermatic cord blocks (an injection that helps to deaden the pain).

**Can a no scalpel vasectomy be reversed?**

- Vasectomy should be considered a permanent birth control method and not reversible.

**How is a no scalpel vasectomy scheduled?**

- Please call us at 303-440-9320 extension 38 to make an appointment for a no scalpel consultation.
- During the consultation, the procedure is fully explained, information on pre- and postoperative care is given, and an appointment is made for the procedure -- 30 days after the consultation.