



# HALTON UROLOGY

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## **What is a vasectomy?**

Vasectomy is a form of male birth control that cuts the supply of sperm to your semen. The procedure is done by cutting and sealing the tubes that carry sperm. Vasectomy has a low risk of problems and can usually be performed in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia.

Before getting a vasectomy you need to be certain you don't want to father a child in the future. Although vasectomy reversals are possible, vasectomy should be considered a permanent form of male birth control. Vasectomy however offers no protection from sexually transmitted infections.

A potential concern with vasectomy is that you might later change your mind about wanting to father a child. Although it might be possible to reverse your vasectomy, there's no guarantee it will work. Reversal surgery is more complicated than vasectomy, can be expensive and is ineffective in some cases.

Other techniques are also available to father a child following vasectomy, such as in vitro fertilization. However, these techniques are also expensive and not always effective. Before you get a vasectomy, be certain you don't want to father a child in the future.

For most men, a vasectomy doesn't cause any noticeable side effects, and serious complications are rare.

Side effects right after surgery can include:

- Bleeding or a blood clot (hematoma) inside the scrotum
- Blood in your semen
- Bruising of your scrotum
- Infection of the surgery site
- Mild pain or discomfort
- Swelling

Delayed complications can include:

- Chronic pain (rare)
- Fluid buildup in the testicle, which can cause a dull ache that gets worse with ejaculation
- Inflammation caused by leaking sperm (granuloma)
- Pregnancy, in the event that your vasectomy fails (rare)
- An abnormal cyst (spermatocele) that develops in the small, coiled tube located on the upper testicle that collects and transports sperm (epididymis)

- A fluid-filled sac (hydrocele) surrounding a testicle that causes swelling in the scrotum

### **Unfounded concerns**

Many men worry that a vasectomy could cause serious problems — but these fears are unfounded. For example, a vasectomy won't:

- **Affect your sexual performance.** A vasectomy won't affect your sex drive or your masculinity in any way other than preventing you from fathering a child.
- **Permanently damage your sexual organs.** There's very little risk that your testicles, penis or other parts of your reproductive system will be injured during surgery.
- **Increase your risk of certain cancers.** Although there have been some concerns about a possible link between vasectomy and testicular cancer in the past, there's no proven link.
- **Increase your risk of heart disease.** As with cancer fears, there doesn't appear to be any link between vasectomy and heart problems.
- **Cause severe pain.** You might feel minor pain and pulling or tugging during surgery, but severe pain is rare. Likewise, after surgery you might have some pain, but for most men the pain is minor and goes away after a few days.

\*\*\*[Link here to my vasectomy hand out](#)