

  **FAQ’s**

Why should I choose a No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) rather than a conventional one?
A No-Scalpel Vasectomy is a quick and relatively painless surgical procedure.
The most common reasons you might consider having a No-Scalpel Vasectomy are:
- less discomfort
- no stitches
- faster procedure
- faster recovery
- only one small opening of the skin
- less chance of bleeding/complications
- just as effective

How does a No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) work?
The doctor feels for the tubes under the skin and holds them in place with a small clamp. Instead of making two incisions, the doctor creates one tiny opening with a special instrument. This opening is usually around 5mm in size and usually over the middle of the scrotum in front. The doctor then cauterises and interrupts the vas using new and advanced techniques through hyfrecator equipment.

Is a No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) safe?
A No-Scalpel Vasectomy in general is safe and simple. A No-Scalpel Vasectomy is an operation, and all surgery has some risks, such as bleeding, bruising, and infection. But serious problems are very rare and are much reduced with this method.

What is a No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) failure?
Failure means that following a procedure and a sufficient time gap allowing for all sperm to die, you still have life sperm in your semen. Failure can happen due to different reasons. Provided the doctor is experienced it is usually due to so called “spontaneous re-canalisation” of the vas. This means the “tubes” grow together again following a procedure. If a failure happens your semen sample will not be negative, but contain life sperm. A repeat procedure would be required. Occasionally, chance of failure can be higher due to previous surgery or injuries and the resulting scarring in a patient’s scrotum. There is a less than 1% chance of failure because of its safety profile.

What is the cost?
The cost of a consultation is £95 and the surgical procedure including the post-op semen analysis is £595. In the unlikely event that a second post-op semen sample is required, then this is charged at £65. The consultation and procedure can be carried out on the same day if you request this at time of booking.

How long does the procedure take?
Your appointment will last roughly 50 minutes and include an initial consultation, the procedure and aftercare instructions.
The procedure itself typically lasts 20-30 minutes.

Will it hurt?
We use local anaesthetic for the procedure, and this may cause slight discomfort. Once this has worked, your skin will be numb and you will not feel anything sharp or painful.
After the procedure, you may feel some discomfort and you may take Paracetamol or Ibuprofen to alleviate this.

Can I drive home?
No. Please have someone collect you or take a taxi home. We don’t recommend you walk home either as you will need to rest for 24 hours immediately after the procedure.

How soon can I return to work?
We advise you to rest for 24 hours following your vasectomy and not to do any heavy physical labour for 2 weeks. Otherwise, you are free to return when you wish provided that you wear tight, supportive underpants day and night for the first week after the procedure.

Will I be sterile right away?
No. After a vasectomy, there are always some active sperm left in your system. It takes at least 24 ejaculations to clear them. You and your partner should use contraception until your semen has been tested and we inform you that it is free of sperm.

When can I have sex again?
After 1 week, if you feel comfortable. Please remember to use contraception until we inform you that you are sterile.

Will I experience much pain during the recovery period?
You may experience bruising of the scrotal skin and/or discomfort and swelling of the testes. If this has not settled after 1 week, please call us on 01202 761150 or email reception@dorsetprivategp.co.uk.
Please also contact us if:
- you have continued discomfort or severe pain that is not relieved by Paracetamol/Ibuprofen.
- you have an enlarged, tender lump within the scrotum that is larger than a golf ball or double the original size of your testes.

I am in severe pain/discomfort - who do I contact out of hours or during weekends?
Please call 111 for advice or go to your local Emergency Department.

Can I still ejaculate after the procedure?
Yes you can, because most of your sperm is your semen. The prostate makes semen (this is one of the main reasons you have a prostate). Once clear you will have empty ejaculations.

When do I provide you with my post-op semen sample?
A minimum of 16 weeks after the procedure, although you may start later if you have had less than 24 ejaculates.
You will be given a test collection kit at your appointment to take home with you. There will be full instructions on how to collect your semen sample and where to take it to.

How do I provide you with my post-op semen sample?
The entire ejaculate should be collected after a minimum of 2 days and no more than 7 days of abstinence, preferably by masturbation, into the container provided. Please do not use a condom as a method of collection.
Please follow the instructions carefully, make sure the container is labelled accurately and take the specimen using the packaging provided to Poole or Dorset County Hospital. You will be given full instructions on how to arrange the drop off at the hospital. An appointment must be made.

When will I receive the results?
The results will be emailed to you within 2 weeks of dropping off your test.
What will the results tell me?
If your specimen shows no sperm, you are sterile and can stop using contraception.
If your specimen shows sperm, you would need to provide a second specimen, at an additional cost of £65.

Can I reverse my No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV)?
Although a No-scalpel Vasectomy is quick, easy, and convenient and causes very little discomfort you should consider it permanent. However, it is possible to have a vasectomy reversed. This reversal procedure isn’t always successful and it rarely funded by the NHS. You have a better chance of success if it is done soon after the vasectomy. Even if a doctor manages to join up the tubes again, pregnancy may still not be possible so you should be certain before going ahead with the vasectomy.