

Laboratory Medicine Department

Your Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis

What we test your sample for and your results explained

This leaflet is aimed at giving you some basic scientific information on the following test:

Post Vasectomy Test (PVT)

****Note:** All results are to be obtained from your requesting Clinician/GP.
The laboratory cannot give results directly to patients**

Eastern Pathology Alliance
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings
Lynn, James Paget University Hospital

Post Vasectomy Test (PVT)

When will this take place?

A Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis test is required to take place no sooner than **12 weeks after your vasectomy operation** and is requested by your doctor to establish whether your vasectomy procedure has been successful.

This test is the only method of doing so accurately.

The criteria we ask you to follow remains the same as for all semen analyses; arriving at your appointment within 60 minutes of production, keeping the sample warm at body temperature during delivery to the laboratory and compliance with the 48 hour abstinence period.

It is important that you have ejaculated at least 20 times since the vasectomy procedure prior to the first semen analysis.

It is also **essential that ALL of the sample is collected** and no part is lost as we will be unable to test your sample as the results will not be accurate.

If any part of your sample is missing it is essential that you inform us. Please inform the laboratory if this information has not been accurately recorded on your pre-analysis questionnaire.

What do we test your sample for?

We microscopically assess your sample to see if any sperm cells are present or not. If any sperm cells are present we perform a thorough assessment to see if any of those cells are motile (show movement) or not.

We also perform an assessment of semen volume, appearance, liquefaction and viscosity.

Your PVSA results explained

- **No sperm seen = no sperm are seen in the sample.**
- **<0.1 x10⁶/ml Immotile spermatozoa = non -motile sperm seen in very small numbers.**
- **>0.1 x10⁶/ml Immotile spermatozoa = non - motile sperm seen in large numbers.**
- **Motile spermatozoa seen = swimming/moving sperm cells observed.**

(10⁶ = millions per millilitre which is our laboratory unit of measurement. 0.1 x10⁶/ml is the same as 100,000 cells per ml)

No sperm seen is the ideal result after having a vasectomy procedure; however it is not uncommon to see **small numbers of immotile sperm** in samples months afterwards.

In order to ensure to the best of our ability that these cells are non-motile (not moving) and therefore not capable of producing a pregnancy, **we strictly need to test an entire ejaculate within 60 minutes of production.**

If your results show any number of **motile sperm**, then the results DO NOT meet the requirements for any level of clearance and the laboratory will suggest you are referred back to the clinician who has performed the vasectomy for further advice.

Clearance Criteria

The criteria for post vasectomy clearance are set by the Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons 2016 Guidelines.

Note: Clearance that your vasectomy procedure has worked effectively can **ONLY** be granted by your Clinician or GP.

The laboratory report will say whether or not your results meet the criteria for the two different types of clearance:

1. **CLEARANCE = No sperm seen & sample tested within 4 hours of production.**
Only one sample needs to be tested.
2. **SPECIAL CLEARANCE = x2 samples that show <0.1 Immotile spermatozoa and both samples are tested within 60 minutes of production.**

What if you need to repeat the test?

Repeat analyses will be required depending upon the findings of the first sample analysed. It is Important that you contact your GP/Clinician to obtain your results, in order to determine if you are required to repeat the test.

- Results showing **<0.1 Immotile spermatozoa** that are **tested within 60 minutes** of production will require x1 repeat analysis that is also tested within 60 minutes and shows <0.1 Immotile spermatozoa in order to meet the requirements for Special Clearance.
- Results showing **<0.1 Immotile spermatozoa** that are **NOT tested within 60 minutes** of production will require further repeat analyses until you obtain x2 results that are tested within 60 minutes and therefore meet the criteria above for Special Clearance.
- Results showing **>0.1 Immotile spermatozoa** will require further repeat

analyses until you obtain x2 results that meet the criteria above for Special Clearance showing small numbers of immotile cells present.

Please ensure you continue to use contraception until clearance has been granted by your Clinician/GP.

For any queries regarding any of the content within this leaflet please contact the Department of Andrology at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital:
01603 646524 between 09:00am - 16:00pm

