Post Vasectomy Semen Analysis

After a vasectomy, patients are required to produce 2 semen samples to check for presence of sperm. The first sample must be collected after at least 24 ejaculates and 16 weeks after your operation; this gives time for any residual sperm to be cleared from your body. A second sample should be collected 2 to 4 weeks after the first.

Why am I having this test done?
To check for the presence or absence of sperm after a vasectomy operation.

Do I need an appointment?
No, when you leave the Day Surgery Unit you will be provided with 2 specimen containers (pots with yellow lids) and 2 pathology request forms. These should be labelled specimen 1 and specimen 2. This information sheet will also be given at this time.

When should I produce my sample?
The first sample must be produced 16 weeks after the operation. At least 24 ejaculations should have occurred in this time (if not, wait until this has been exceeded before producing your sample). The second sample must be produced between 2 and 4 weeks after the first.

How do I produce my sample?
There is NO facility to produce your sample on-site at PCH; this must be done at home.

In the 7 days before you produce your sample please have sex and ejaculate (come) at least once. BUT...do not take part in any sexual activity during the 2 days before you produce your sample.

The preferred method of collection is by masturbation into the specimen container; a condom should not be used to collect the specimen. Samples obtained by withdrawal during intercourse (coitus interruptus) are not suitable.

It is essential that the complete ejaculate is collected as any sperm are normally in the first part of the ejaculate.
Where do I take the collection?

The specimen should reach the Pathology Laboratory as soon as possible after collection, be less than two hours old and must not be exposed to extremes of temperature. **Samples must be received before 1400 Monday to Friday.**

Your sample must be delivered to **The Department of Sexual Health, Peterborough City Hospital** (Telephone extension 3276/3277) where it will be sent straight to Pathology.

Please ensure that:

- **The lid is firmly sealed.**
- You have **written your name, date of birth, the date and time of the collection on the specimen pot.**
- **The request form from your doctor accompanies the collection.**

Samples can only be accepted at **Peterborough City Hospital, Department of Sexual Health, 0900-1400 Monday-Friday (Excluding Bank Holidays).**

What happens if I don’t complete the information on the collection pot, or don’t send an accompanying request form?

This could cause significant delays in the processing of your sample, and you may be asked to repeat the collection, so please follow the instructions above.

How will I get my results?

All results will be sent to your doctor. Please contact them for any results.

Will I only need 2 tests?

Occasionally further samples may be required. Your General Practitioner (GP) should inform you if this is the case. They will provide you with additional sample pots and request forms.

For more information on this test, please contact your doctor, or the Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology Department at Peterborough City Hospital, Telephone: 01733 678454.

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