

Evaluation Treatment of Infertility in Men

Evaluation & treatment of infertility in men

Dysphagia is the medical term for swallowing difficulties. Dysphagia may result in food and/or fluids entering the airway while eating and drinking (i.e. aspiration). Dysphagia is often the result of medical conditions that weaken or damage muscles and nerves involved in the swallowing process.

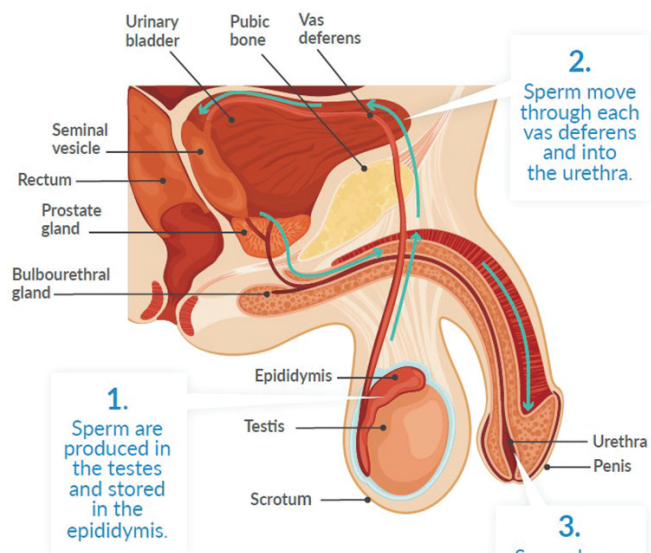
What is infertility?

According to the World Health Organization, infertility is defined as the inability to achieve pregnancy after 12 months of regular unprotected sexual intercourse. 50% of infertility is attributed to male factors such as abnormal sperm production.

Evaluation of infertility in men include:

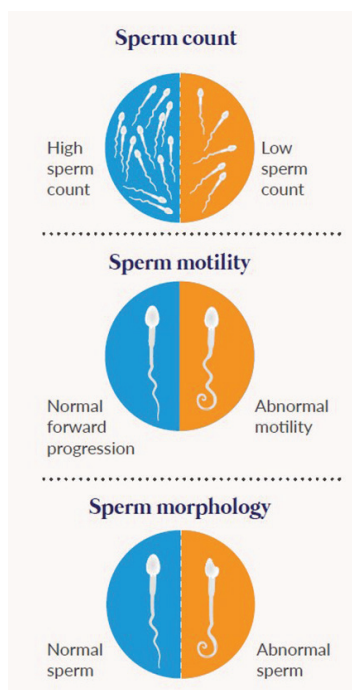
- History and physical examination
- Semen analysis
- Hormonal blood tests
- Ultrasound and other special tests

The quality of sperm is critical for male fertility. In normal men, sperm is produced in the testes and expelled through the opening of the penis. Infertile men usually have problems with either sperm production, sperm delivery or both.



What is Semen Analysis?

- Semen analysis is a test done to examine sperm numbers (count), sperm activity (motility) and sperm shape (morphology).
- Patients need to abstain from intercourse for at least 3 days before giving the sample.
- The test is done at the NUH Andrology Lab.



Possible Causes of Infertility in Men

Varicoceles (Fig. 1.1)

- These are abnormally enlarged veins around the testes that can affect sperm production.
- Varicoceles can be treated with a day surgery procedure called microsurgical varicocelectomy to tie off the abnormal veins.

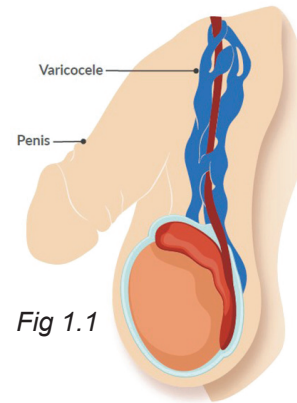


Fig 1.1

Obstruction (Fig 1.2)

- Blockages can occur at different areas including the testes, epididymis, vas deferens, ejaculatory ducts, prostate and urethra.
- The causes may be congenital or due to previous infections, injuries and surgery, which includes vasectomy.
- Patients with previous vasectomies can undergo microsurgical vasectomy reversal surgeries.

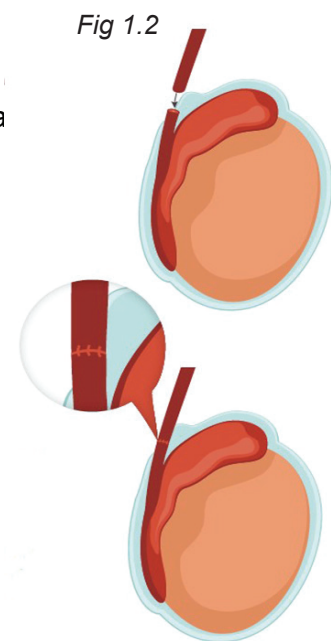


Fig 1.2

Hormonal Disorders

- Abnormalities in hormones such as testosterone, prolactin, folliclestimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinising hormone (LH) can affect fertility.
- Oral tablets or injections are used to correct these disorders.

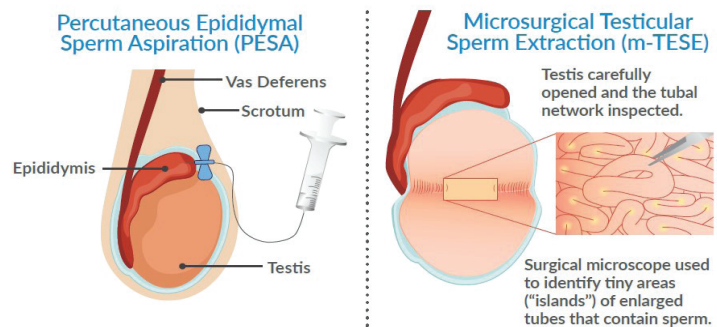
Genetic Disorders

- These are inborn and cannot be corrected.
- Blood tests are done to evaluate for genetic disorders when necessary.

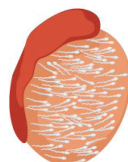
Sperm Retrieval

- In severe cases of male infertility, sperm retrieval procedures are performed.
- These are day surgery procedures.
- The retrieved sperm are frozen and used at a later time for assisted reproduction (ART) to achieve pregnancy.

Sperm retrieval procedures include:



Normal Spermatogenesis



All tubules have sperm

Non-Obstructive Azoospermia



One in 20 tubules have sperm

Non-Obstructive Azoospermia



One in 100 tubules have sperm

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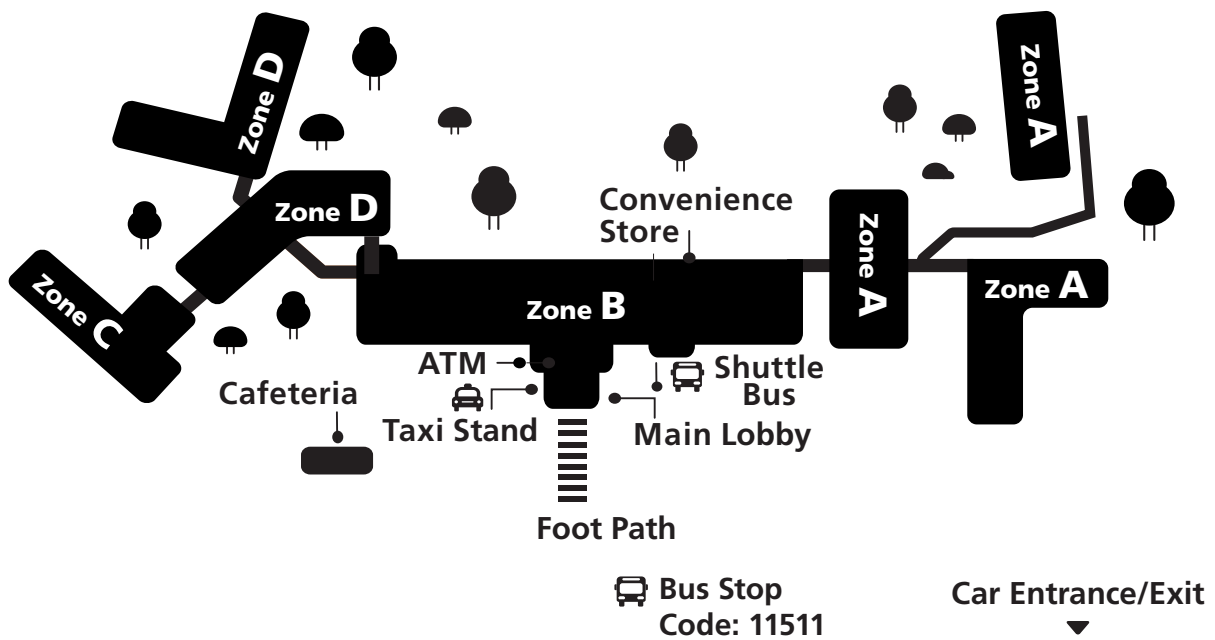
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