

Surgical Sperm Retrieval

What is Surgical Sperm Retrieval (SSR)?

Staff at MFS are able to perform two forms of surgical sperm retrieval at the clinic:

- TESA - testicular sperm aspiration
- PESA - percutaneous sperm aspiration

Both TESA and PESA are methods of obtaining sperm directly from the testis or epididymis.

Who can benefit from SSR?

SSR is suitable for men who have had a failed vasectomy reversal and may also be suitable for spinally-injured men or where there are problems with normal ejaculatory function (such as MS or diabetes).

Men with other causes for azoospermia (absence of sperm in the ejaculate) may also choose to undergo surgical sperm retrieval.

What is the SSR procedure?

Following intravenous sedation, the procedure is carried out under a local anaesthetic block.

A fine needle is used to remove small lengths of seminiferous tubule. These are then carefully dissected under a microscope and any sperm found are cultured and/or frozen for future use in an IVF ICSI cycle.

Because the number of sperm aspirated is small and their motility is reduced, ICSI (Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection) is required to achieve fertilisation in an IVF cycle.

Preparing for SSR

- before coming to the clinic, the man should shave the hair off the scrotum or use a cream depilatory such as 'Immac'
- he should bring a tight pair of 'slip'-style underpants or swimming trunks - not boxer shorts - with him
- he will need to be accompanied by a driver or to arrange a lift / taxi as he will not be able to drive for 24 hours after the procedure
- as with any surgical procedure, there is a slight risk of bleeding, bruising or infection. In order to reduce this risk he is advised to wear a tightly fitting pair of underpants for 24 hours (including overnight) after the procedure

After the SSR procedure

For the few days after the SSR, MFS advises:

- no alcohol
- no drugs containing aspirin
- no hot baths

- no strenuous exercise
- if he experiences any discomfort, in any 24 hours, he may take up to:
 - 4g (usually 8 tablets) paracetamol, or
 - 240mg codeine, or
 - 1200mg ibuprofen (Nurofen)
- he should follow the information on the medication to ensure he does not exceed the recommended dosage in any 24 hour period
- when discharged from MFS he will receive a summary letter giving details of the procedure and the contact details of the medical director
- if he is concerned or feel particularly unwell, call 01922 455911. During normal clinic hours he may speak to a nurse or doctor. Out of these hours, a message will provide the on-call telephone number of a senior member of the MFS team who will deal with any concerns

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