

Infertility in men – questions to ask in the History

Medical history

- Recent pyrexia/ illness
- Systemic illness – diabetes mellitus, cancer, infection
- Genetic disorders – cystic fibrosis, Klinefelter syndrome

Surgical history

- Undescended testes, orchidopexy
- Hernia repair
- Testicular trauma, torsion
- Pelvic, bladder or retroperitoneal surgery

Fertility history

- Previous pregnancies – with current and previous partners
- Duration of infertility
- Previous infertility treatments

Sexual history

- Erection or ejaculation problems
- Frequency of intercourse

Medication

- Nitrofurantoin, cimetidine, sulfasalazine, spironolactone, α -blockers,
- methotrexate, colchicine, amiodarone, antidepressants, phenothiazines, chemotherapy

Social history

- Alcohol, smoking, anabolic steroids, recreational drugs
- Exposure to ionising radiation
- Chronic heat exposure
- Aniline dyes/Pesticides/Lead exposure

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

- loss of libido and erectile dysfunction secondary to low endogenous testosterone levels may induce azoospermia by interfering with the hypothalamo-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) axis

