

Referral for vasectomy under general anaesthetic subject to IFR

Refer for an individual funding request if any of the following factors that may complicate vasectomy are present:

- suspected unilateral or bilateral absence of the vas deferens:
 - are associated with cystic fibrosis and infertility
 - specialist advice is required regarding further investigation
 - magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be required
 - unilateral vasectomy can be carried out by an experienced vasectomy surgeon if one vas is palpable – advise men:
 - to comply with additional contraception until sterility is confirmed about the probability of ipsilateral renal agenesis
- any other abnormality of the vas deferens, eg:
 - double or duplicate vas deferens – this is very rare
- impalpable vasa due to hydroceles or inguinoscrotal hernias
- a pre-existing complex regional pain syndrome
- the presence of an implanted electronic device, eg a pacemaker:
 - particularly when using a hyfrecator during the procedure
- the following anatomical features:
 - retractile or ascending testes:
 - depending on if the cremasteric muscles can be made to relax with the application of a warm pad – this is possible in most patients
 - scarring – a consequence of previous scrotal surgery:
 - the difficulty of the procedure depends on:
 - the degree of scarring; and
 - the experience and skill of the surgeon
 - this is not always easy to feel on examination
 - a small and tight scrotum or a brisk cremasteric reflex – causing the scrotum to shrink
 - obesity:
 - adipose tissue may make access more difficult /may result in thickened spermatic cords
 - individual variability in vas deferens thickness or palpability:
 - the ease of palpability may vary significantly, depending on the level of expertise of the surgeon
 - large hydrocele
 - small hydroceles are common and may not be a problem, provided there is some degree of certainty that it is not due to a tumour, and the vas can be accessed
 - large spermatocele
 - extreme scrotal hypersensitivity
 - inguinoscrotal hernia
 - signs of scrotal infection
 - orchidopexy **NB: Patient reluctance to undergo vasectomy under general anaesthetic may also be a contraindication.**