

VASECTOMY (MALE STERILIZATION)

Effectiveness (chances of NOT getting pregnant)

- 99% or more

What is a Vasectomy (male sterilization)

- A surgical procedure that prevents pregnancy by blocking the passage of sperm into the ejaculated seminal fluid (cum).

Advantages of Vasectomy

- Permanent method of contraceptive.
- Highly effective method.
- Very safe surgical procedure.
- Removes the responsibility of contraception from the woman.
- No significant long term side effects.
- Does not interrupt lovemaking.
- Highly acceptable method.
- A no scalpel Vasectomy is also available.

Disadvantages of Vasectomy

- Protection for the male only (females are at risk for pregnancy).
- Usually irreversible.
- Requires skilled medical personnel.
- Lack of protection from sexually transmitted diseases and infections, including HIV.
- Initial cost may be expensive, some times considered an elective procedure, and requires self-pay. However, the long term cost benefits are great.
- Although unproven, serious long-term effects are possible.

How Do I Decide?

- Are you sure you do not want any more children?
- Can you tolerate a surgical procedure?
- Can you afford the procedure?
- Have other methods been considered?
- Does this method fit your religious or moral beliefs?
- Is a Vasectomy the best decision for you?
- Do you want to discuss this method with your clinician, family planning clinic staff, partner, friend, or family member? In the Philadelphia area, click here for a list of local family planning clinics. Outside of Philadelphia, please click here for a clinic near you www.plannedparenthood.org.

REMINDER: This method does not provide any protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) including HIV and Hepatitis B. Using condoms consistently can help provide protection from STD's.