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# **Brochure: vasectomy**

Vasectomy performed at Andros Clinics the largest urological clinic in the Netherlands. Since 2004, Andros has been the leading specialist for men. You can rely on the best possible vasectomy procedure in a relaxed atmosphere.

#### Vasectomy

A vasectomy is a minor surgical procedure on the sperm tubes to prevent pregnancy (fertilisation). The procedure is known as one of the most reliable methods of contraception. In this procedure, the specialist cuts and seals both sperm tubes.

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- How to prepare for the vasectomy
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#### **Reliable contraception**

Each year, about 20,000 men in The Netherlands undergo this procedure to be ensured of reliable contraception. One must bear in mind that a vasectomy is practically irreversible, it is a permanent form of contraception. It is meant for anyone who is certain that they do not want to have any (more) children, now and in the future.

#### No negative impact on ejaculation

Prior to the procedure, many men worry about negative impact on their sex life after vasectomy. There is no reason for concern as a vasectomy does not negatively affect the sexual mechanism and the sensation after a sexual climax. The only difference after a vasectomy is that your seminal fluid (semen) will not contain any sperm. Sperm cells remain in the testicles and are broken down. Sperm production will slowly decrease and will stop 5 to 10 years after the procedure.

## How to prepare yourself for the vasectomy

It is important to prepare yourself to contribute to a successful vasectomy. Please read carefully what you need to do yourself.

#### Three days before the vasectomy

• Three days before the procedure you are requested to shave your pubic hair, especially your scrotum (ball sack) with a razor or an electric shaver.

#### Day of the vasectomy

- To prevent infection, please wash yourself thoroughly with water and soap on the day of the procedure.
- You are allowed to eat normally on the day of the procedure.
- After the procedure, you are not allowed to drive a car or ride a bike. We advise you to ask someone to accompany you to the appointment.
- Make sure to wear tight-fitting and comfortable underwear or swim shorts on the day of the procedure.
- We advise you to take two 500mg paracetamol (acetaminophen) tablets just before you leave your house.

#### Even easier: the Andros app

The Andros app notifies you at the right moment what is needed or what will happen before, during and after the vasectomy. This way you don't have to remember everything yourself.

You will receive a textmessage with a link to download the app. Did you not receive a textmessage? Please use the QR code below to download the app. \*At the moment the information in the Andros app is only available in Dutch.



#### **Preoperative screening**

Prior to the vasectomy the preoperative screening takes place.

We have sent you a digital questionnaire by mail. Based on the completed questionnaire, the nurse will assess whether it's safe to perform the vasectomy.

The questionnaire must be completed in full before the vasectomy can take place. It is therefore important that you fill it in completely. The nurse will contact you by phone if she needs any additional information.

#### Do you use blood-thinning medications?

If you use blood thinners, there may be an increased risk of bleeding. Therefore, it is necessary that you stop taking these medications a few days prior to the procedure. Ask your attending doctor or your anticoagulation clinic when you must stop taking these medications and when you can start taking these again.

If you have your blood checked by the anticoagulation clinic, please ask for an INR (International Normalized Ratio) check, one working day prior to the vasectomy. Your INR has to be lower than 1.7. If this is not the case, please contact us.

# Your visit to our clinic

#### What do you bring to the appointment?

- Bring valid identification (ID, passport, drivers license)
- Bring a list of the medication you use or allow your pharmacy to share your history of medication. You may do so via https://www.volgjezorg.nl.

Before starting the vasectomy procedure, you will meet and talk with the specialist who will carry out the vasectomy. During this talk, the specialist will discuss the procedure in detail. If you have any questions, the specialist will be happy to answer these. After this, it's time to start the procedure.

#### Local anaesthetic

After your talk with the specialist, you will be asked to lie down on the treatment table. Your scrotum will be disinfected and two injections will be administered to numb the skin. The injections may feel somewhat uncomfortable, which is why you're advised to take two paracetamol (acetaminophen) tablets just before you leave your house.

#### The procedure

After receiving the anaesthetic, you will feel no pain. You may feel some tugging and pulling of the sperm tubes which may feel uncomfortable to your lower abdomen.

The specialist will make a small cut left and right of your scrotum to reach the sperm tubes, and then cuts and removes a small section of both tubes. The ends of both tubes are then tied. The cuts in the skin are closed with stitches or an adhesive strip and covered with sterile bandages. The vasectomy takes about 15 minutes.

#### **Recovering after the procedure**

When the procedure is done, you will be asked to take a seat in our waiting room where you will be offered a cup of coffee or soup. We want to make sure you're feeling okay before you leave our clinic.

# After the vasectomy procedure

For the remainder of the day, you need to rest to avoid any post-op bleeding. If you experience any pain in your scrotum or groin area after the anaesthetic has worn off, you can take paracetamol (acetaminophen) or try to cool it down (usually not necessary).

We advise you to take paracetamol for the first two days after the procedure and to reduce this slowly. This is important for the healing process.

- Day 1 and 2: 4 times a day (every 6 hours) 2 paracetamol of 500 mg
- Day 3 and 4: 4 times a day (every 6 hours) 1 paracetamol of 500 mg

We advise you to wear tight-fitting and comfortable underwear or swim shorts to help support your scrotum till you no longer feel any pain or discomfort in the groin area.

#### Lifestyle advice after a vasectomy

To prevent complications, we advise you to stick to a number of rules following the days after the procedure:

- You may not shower until two days after the procedure. 24 hours after the procedure, you can remove the bandage yourself and after 48 hours you are allowed to take a shower.
- You may go to work if you feel you are capable to do so. Avoid any straining physical activities, especially during the first few days after the procedure.

- Cycling, exercising, swimming or heavy lifting is allowed one week after the procedure.
- Contact sport is allowed 10 days after the procedure
- Sexual intercourse is allowed one week after the procedure, but please keep in mind that you are not instantly infertile after the procedure.
- If the skin has been stitched, the stitches will dissolve by themselves after approx.
  10 till 14 days, and so do not need removing.
- Please keep in mind that your skin needs to heal and that it may be sensitive up to six weeks.

# Side effects and complications

One or two days after the procedure, our nurse will contact you by phone to inquire after your wellbeing and if you have experienced any complications. Generally, there are almost no complications. After the procedure, you may experience one or more side effects. The following side effects are more common and will disappear in about one week.

#### Haematoma

After the procedure, you may experience a haematoma which will cause a blue discolouration of your scrotum and / or the base of the penis.

#### **Blood or fluid loss**

There may be some blood and fluid loss. Please do not be concerned as this will pass within a few days.

#### Pain

Post-op pain is more common and can be felt as a painful sensation in the testicles during walking. You may want to take pain killers.

#### Feeling of propulsion

In the first few weeks after the vasectomy, you may experience a feeling of propulsion which can feel somewhat uncomfortable prior to ejaculation. Do not worry, as this is temporary in general.

# **Contact us in the following cases:**

- If you develop a fever (higher than 38.5 °C);
- Large swelling of your scrotum;
- If your wound keeps bleeding;
- If you experience excessive pain.

# Contact information (if you experience one of the abovementioned complications):

- If a complication occurs within 48 hours after the procedure, please contact us immediately at the Andros emergency telephone number: 026 – 389 06 82. This phone number can be reached 24/7. The operator will put you through to your attending doctor.
- If a complication occurs more than 48 hours after the procedure, and within our opening times, please contact us immediately at the Andros general telephone number: 026 389 17 53. Our opening times are Monday through Friday, 08:30-17:00.
- If a complication occurs more than 48 hours after the procedure, and outside our opening times, please contact the nearest out-of-office-hours GP service immediately for a check-up or examination. After the vasectomy procedure, you will receive a letter with information about your vasectomy for any future reference.
   Please make sure to take this letter with you if any complication occurs and you are to go to the nearest out-of-office-hours GP service.

After a vasectomy, about 5% of men experience prolonged pain in the scrotum and/or epididymis (post-vasectomy pain) which is caused by interaction between the scar tissue and the nerve running parallel with the sperm tube to the scrotum. It is important that a vasectomy is carefully performed.

# Sperm check after three months

After the vasectomy procedure, you are not instantly infertile. The first months after the procedure, there will be sperm cells in your semen at ejaculation as there are still sperm cells present in the seminal vesicles and the prostate.

After approximately three months and at least 30 ejaculations, your semen will be tested to find out if the procedure has been successful.

After the procedure, we will provide you with a sterile plastic container to collect and hand in your semen. To have reliable results, it is important that you carefully follow the instructions in the information leaflet about the sperm check. The results of the test will be ready within 10 working days. You will receive an e-mail informing you that your test results are available to access in your digital patient file MijnAndros.

It may occur that you have to hand in an additional sample. One to three patients in 1,000 experience renewed fertility after a long period of time caused by re-attachment growth of the sperm tube ends, creating free passage to sperm cells.

#### **MijnAndros**

The results of the sperm check will be made available in your digital patient file. You can log in with your credential. If it's the first time you- log in, please click 'Wachtwoord vergeten', you will then receive your temporarily pasword in your e-mail. <u>Click here to log into your patient file.</u>

# Costs of a vasectomy

The costs of a vasectomy performed at Andros are €495 in 2024.

#### Vasectomy not covered in basic package of health insurance

Vasectomy costs are not covered in the basic package of health insurers, which means you will have to pay for the costs yourself charged by clinics or hospitals.

You do not need a referral from your GP, if you pay for the costs yourself. You pay €495 by debit card at our reception. It is not possible to pay in cash or with creditcard. We will send you the invoice for the vasectomy procedure after processing the administration following the NZa rules (NZa= Dutch Healthcare Authority) in your digital dossier. This will

be 42 days after the procedure.

#### **Reimbursement via supplemental insurance**

Some supplemental insurances provide reimbursement of vasectomies. In this case, you can reimburse the expenses of the vasectomy procedure with your health insurer. You may need a referral from your GP or approval from your health insurer. We advise you to contact your health insurer before visiting our clinic.

# **Cancelling your appointment**

If you are not able to come to your appointment, please let us know at least 7 days prior to your appointment.

#### Costs for cancelling or not showing up at your appointment

When you visit us for a vasectomy, a well-prepared team is ready for you. Due to preparations, we can no longer fill your reserved spot. That's why we charge costs if you cancel or don't show up.

- When you don't show up or cancel on the day of the procedure, the costs are €150,-
- When you cancel within 7 days before the procedure, the cancellation fee is €75,-.

#### **Complaints and suggestions**

All the staff at Andros do their utmost to provide good care and assistance. But it may occur that you are not fully satisfied. If this is the case, please discuss your concerns or complaints with the staff involved in your procedure. We consider each complaint as a chance to learn and improve our quality of service. If you are still not satisfied, you can contact our Complaints Coordinator. Read more about this: <u>www.andros.nl/over-andros/uw-bezoek/klachten</u> (in Dutch)

#### Feel free to contact us

Do you still have questions after reading our leaflet? Please feel free to contact us. You can reach us by telephone at 026 – 389 17 53, Monday through Friday, 08:00-17:00, or via e-mail at: info@andros.nl.

# Adressen, routes en parkeren

#### **Andros Clinics Amsterdam**

Louwesweg 6 (2e etage) 1066 EC Amsterdam Parkeren: betaald parkeren in parkeergarage De Plantijn. Houd er rekening mee dat het vanaf de parkeergarage ongeveer 10-15 minuten lopen is naar onze kliniek.

Plan route naar kliniek met Google Plan route naar parkeergarage met Google

#### **Andros Clinics Arnhem**

Meester E.N. van Kleffensstraat 5 6842 CV Arnhem Parkeren: gratis parkeren op eigen parkeerterrein <u>Plan route met Google</u>

#### **Andros Clinics Baarn**

Hermesweg 15 3741 GP Baarn Parkeren: gratis parkeren op eigen parkeerterrein <u>Plan route met Google</u>

#### Andros Clinics Rijswijk – Den Haag

Madame Curielaan 10 2289 CA Rijswijk Parkeren: met blauwe kaart 2 uur gratis rondom kliniek of betaald bij Q-park Hoornwijck <u>Plan route naar kliniek</u> Plan route naar Q-park

## Website sterilisatieklinieken.nl

Link to our vasectomy website