

Appendix 2. Processes and criteria for post-vasectomy semen analysis recommended by the Association of Surgeons in Primary Care (ASPC) of the United Kingdom.*

| Number of tests | Recommendation | Semen sample submission strategies | |
|---|----------------|--|---|
| | | Non-Postal [†] | Postal [‡] |
| 2-Test Based on 2004 RCOG ¹ / 2002 BAS ² guidelines | Clearance | No sperm or less than 10,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed on two consecutive PVSA. [§] | No sperm observed on two consecutive PVSA. [§] |
| | Repeat test | Any motile sperm or more than 10,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed before 7 months post vasectomy. | Any motile or non-motile sperm observed before 7 months post vasectomy. |
| | Failure | Failure: Any motile sperm observed after 7 months post vasectomy. Possible failure: More than 10,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed after 7 months post vasectomy. | Failure: Any motile sperm observed after 7 months post vasectomy. Possible failure: Any concentration of non-motile sperm >7 months post vasectomy. At this point, the patient should submit non-postal sample(s). |
| 1-Test Based on 2014 FSRH ³ / 2016 ABA,BAS and BAUS ⁴ guidelines | Clearance | No sperm or less than 100,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed in PVSA. [§] | No sperm observed in PVSA. [§] |
| | Repeat test | Any motile sperm or more than 100,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed before 7 months post vasectomy. | Any motile or non-motile sperm observed before 7 months post vasectomy. |
| | Failure | Failure: Any motile sperm observed after 7 months post vasectomy. Possible failure: More than 100,000 non-motile sperm/mL observed after 7 months post vasectomy. | Failure: Any motile sperm observed after 7 months post-vasectomy. Possible failure: Any concentration of non-motile sperm >7 months post vasectomy. At this point, the patient should submit non-postal sample(s). |

PVSA = post-vasectomy semen analysis

*These recommendations and criteria are primarily based on the 2004 Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)¹ and 2014 Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)² Guidelines. The ASPC also took into account some recommendations of the 2002 British Andrology Society (BAS)³ and the 2016 Association of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA), BAS, and British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS)⁴ guidelines.

[†] A fresh sample delivered direct to the laboratory (following set instructions usually requiring booking of an appointment) and examined within 1 or 2 hours of ejaculation according to local laboratory protocol.

[‡]This is a sample taken at home, following set instructions, and sent to a laboratory in specially packaging via the Royal Mail.

[§] The 2004 RCOG guideline recommends that PVSA may commence any time beyond 8 weeks whilst the 2014 guidelines suggests 12 weeks. Most surgeons advise submission of PVSA samples between 12-16 weeks.

^{||} If more than the recommended number of non-motile sperm/mL are present at 7 months, a decision should be reached with the patient to determine the future course of action. This may be to re-operate or continue other contraception with or without further PVSA. This shared decision may be informed by frequency of ejaculation and any trend in numbers of sperm seen.

References

1. Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. Male and female sterilisation. National evidence-based clinical guideline number 4. London: RCOG Press, 2004.
2. Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. Male and Female Sterilisation (Clinical Effectiveness Unit),. In: Guidance FoSRHC, ed., 2014:76.
3. Hancock P, McLaughlin E. British Andrology Society guidelines for the assessment of post vasectomy semen samples (2002). *J Clin Pathol* 2002;55(11):812-6. doi: 10.1136/jcp.55.11.812 [published Online First: 2002/10/29]
4. Hancock P, Woodward BJ, Muneer A, et al. 2016 Laboratory guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis: Association of Biomedical Andrologists, the British Andrology Society and the British Association of Urological Surgeons. *J Clin Pathol* 2016;69(7):655-60. doi: 10.1136/jclinpath-2016-203731 [published Online First: 2016/04/17]