

Complications of vasectomy: results from a prospective audit of 105,393 procedures by

ASPC members

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Abstract

Introduction

Vasectomy is the most reliable form of male contraception. Prior to 2020, over 11,000 vasectomies were performed annually in the UK, the majority in primary care via the minimally invasive vasectomy technique. It is vital to pre-operatively counsel men thoroughly regarding potential complications post vasectomy, though the large series which forms the basis of this counselling date from at least 30 years ago. Refinements in surgical technique and equipment mandate contemporaneous data upon which to base present pre-operative counselling. The aim of this review is to provide up-to-date vasectomy complication rates from a dataset collected over 15 years.

Methodology

Data was collected between 2007 and 2022. Patient questionnaires were completed on day of surgery and 4-months post-operatively. Rates of early and late failure, infection, haematoma and post-vasectomy pain syndrome (PVPS) were recorded. There were no specific exclusion criteria. Complication rates were compared to those published by major urological organisations.

Results

Over the 15-year study period, data from 105,393 vasectomies was collected, performed by over 150 community surgeons **of the ASPC**. Early failure rates were available for 69,500 patients, occurring in 648 patients (**0.93%**). Of 99,124 patients, late failure occurred in 41 (**0.04%**). Of 102,549 vasectomies, post-operative infection was reported in 1250 patients (**1.22%**), haematoma in 1599 patients (**1.56%**) and PVPS in 139 patients (**0.14%**).

Conclusions

Vasectomy remains a safe and reliable contraceptive method. Rates of complication were generally lower than those previously published by major urological organisations. This large, prospective audit provides accurate, contemporaneous complication rates which can inform future pre-vasectomy counselling.