

# Sperm Collection by Testicular Sperm Extraction (TESE)

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Sperm are produced by the testicles. At the time of ejaculation, they are propelled out of the penis in the semen. Some men do not have enough sperm in their semen to be able to fertilize an egg naturally if trying to have a child. Reasons for this include:

- The testes are not able to make enough sperm.
- There is a blockage preventing the sperm from passing out of the penis during ejaculation.

However, you may still be able to use your own sperm to father a child. Your sperm can be collected through Testicular Sperm Extraction (TESE). It involves removing the sperm directly from the testicle.

## Before the Procedure

TESE is performed in the Surgical Day Hospital. Please review the booklet *Getting Ready for Surgery*. This information will help to prepare you for your procedure.

## Description of the Procedure

- You will be given general anesthesia so you will be asleep during the procedure.
- The doctor makes a very small incision in your scrotum.
- The testes are examined using a tiny surgical microscope. This helps to locate areas where there are many sperm.
- Small pieces of tissue are removed from the testes.
- The incision is closed with sutures.
- A compression dressing will be placed around your scrotum. A scrotal support will be put on to hold this in place.
- You will recover in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit until you wake up. Then you will be discharged home.

The pieces of testicle that were removed are broken into pieces and placed into vials. These will be delivered to The Sperm Bank of New York. They will remove the sperm from the tissue and analyze it. If there are enough sperm, they will be frozen and stored. The address of the sperm bank is:

The Sperm Bank of New York  
1090 Amsterdam Avenue (between 113th and 114th Streets)  
#7G  
New York, NY 10025  
212-531-0115

## After the Procedure

### What to expect

- Mild pain and tenderness in your scrotum for a few days. You will be given a prescription for pain medicine. Take this as directed.
- Mild bruising (“black and blue” appearance) on your scrotum and penis.

### How to care for your scrotum

For the first two days after surgery:

- Keep the compression dressing in place.
- Keep the scrotal support in place.
- Apply cold packs against the dressing (outside of the dressing but inside the scrotal support). Keep these on continuously for 48 hours except for when you sleep.

On the third day after surgery:

- Remove the scrotal support and dressing. Take a shower.
- Reapply the scrotal support and keep it on continuously for one week. You can remove it when you shower.

### Activity

- For the first two days after surgery, stay off your feet as much as you can. You can walk short distances within your home. You can climb stairs as needed.
- When sitting, elevate your legs.
- Do not drive while you are taking pain medicine.
- Do not lift any heavy objects (10 pounds or greater) for at least two weeks after surgery.

### Call your doctor if you have:

- A fever over 101°F (38.3°C).
- Pain not relived by your pain medicine.

### Follow Up

- Call your doctor two days after surgery to get the result of your sperm analysis. If there were not enough sperm to freeze, ask your doctor if there are other ways of collecting sperm that could work for you.
- You will have an appointment for a post-operative visit in about two weeks. This will be scheduled before you leave the hospital on the day of your surgery.

