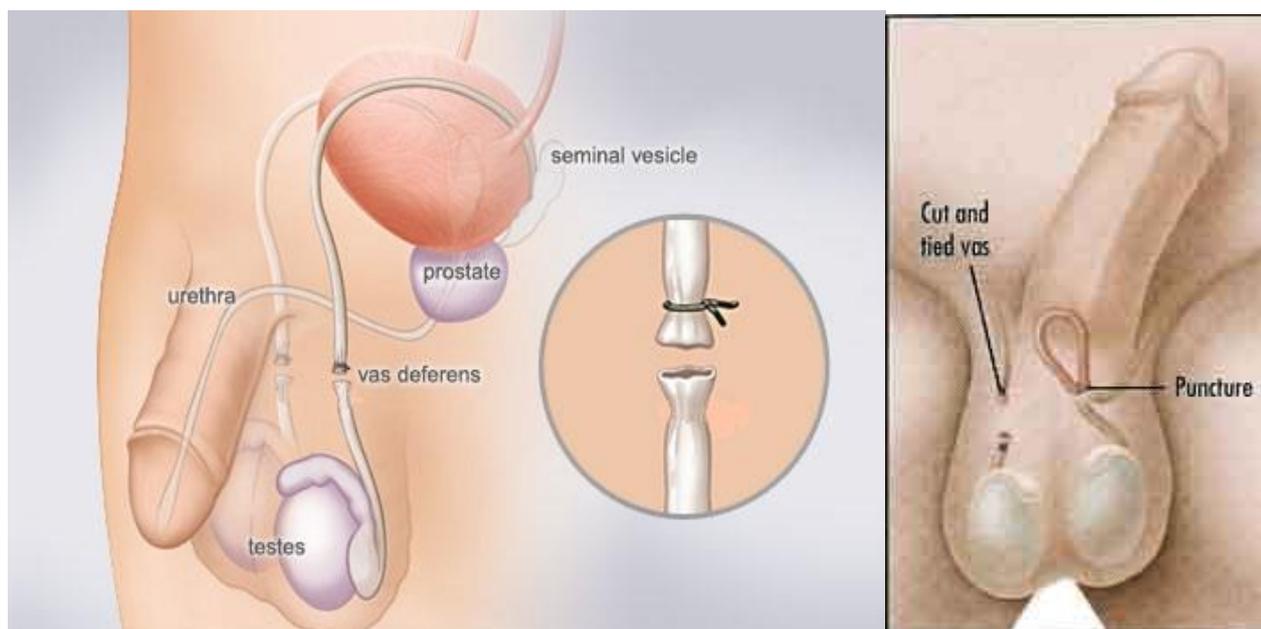


What is a vasectomy?

A vasectomy is a surgical procedure performed under local anaesthetic to make a male patient infertile. It is an ideal means of permanent contraception for men or couples who are certain they do not want any more children. Years of improvements in the surgical technique for vasectomy means a much quicker and easier procedure than in the past. It is also much simpler, safer and more affordable than the equivalent permanent contraception for women (a procedure known as "tubal ligation" which, unlike vasectomy, must be performed in hospital). As a vasectomy is not easily reversed, we encourage patients to consider it a permanent means of contraception.



At Herdsman Specialist Centre, we use the most advanced, minimally invasive technique known as the **"No-Needle, No-Scalpel Vasectomy"**. This is performed through a small, single key-hole in the scrotum. Through this key-hole the doctor locates and cuts both vas deferens, the tubes which carry sperm from the testicles to mix with semen. The upper end of the cut tube is then sealed by electrical cauterly, and further tied back on itself with dissolvable stitches so that there is almost no chance of the tubes ever re-connecting.

We also apply the **"open-ended"** technique to our No-Scalpel Vasectomy, which means leaving the lower end of the cut tube open and untreated. Research has shown this minimises the risk of developing cysts or chronic pain after vasectomy, which occasionally occurred after traditional vasectomy techniques.

These latest methods ensure a rapid recovery after No-Scalpel Vasectomy. The small key-hole heals quickly without stitches or dressings. Some mild bruising can be expected, but patients can usually return to their normal activities within days. If you have any further questions about the procedure please do not hesitate to discuss them with your doctor at the initial consultation.