

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER-SHREVEPORT  
PROVIDER PERFORMED TESTING/MICROSCOPY

**POST-VASECTOMY QUALITATIVE SEMEN ANALYSIS  
PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

**PRINCIPLE**

Semen samples should be examined initially for presence or absence of sperm at 8-12 weeks post-vasectomy and after the patient has produced at least 15 ejaculates. A freshly produced semen specimen should be examined microscopically for presence of motile and/or non-motile sperm. If any sperm are identified, the patient should be cautioned to continue temporary contraception and to resubmit a second specimen for re-examination after approximately 4 additional weeks.

**SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS**

Semen samples should be collected after an abstinence period of no less than 48 hours and no more than 7 days and maintained at body temperature. Patient should be asked to collect the entire ejaculate by masturbation into a non-toxic container labeled with the patient's name and medical record number. It is recommended that the sample be examined within four hours of production.

**REAGENTS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

- A. Glass microscope slides, 3" x 1"
- B. 22 x 22 mm coverslips
- C. Pipette

**CALIBRATION**

Not applicable to this procedure.

**QUALITY CONTROL**

Not applicable to this procedure.

**PROCEDURE**

- A. Sample should be mixed well; place a drop on a clean glass slide, cover with coverslip.
- B. Systematically examine the entire coverslip area for the presence of sperm.
- C. Any sperm detected should be reported as motile or non-motile.

Written: 1/08  
Reviewed/revised:

- D. **Record results in patient medical record.**
- E. **Record results on Semen Analysis Testing Log for Provider Performed Testing.** Include patient name and medical record number (can adhere addressograph label on log sheet), date, initials of person performing the test, and test results.

### **CALCULATIONS**

Not applicable to this procedure.

### **REPORTING RESULTS**

Expected results: Post-vasectomy semen analysis—No sperm seen.

### **PROCEDURE NOTES**

None

### **LIMITATIONS OF PROCEDURES**

Delayed re-canalization of the vas deferens can rarely occur after documented azospermia.

### **REFERENCES**

Campbell-Walsh Urology, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Wein, Kavoussi, Novick, Partin and Peters, Elsevier 2007.