



Azoospermia

Sperm is normally produced in the testis, transits in to the epididymis (a structure that surrounds the testis) and then up a tube called the vas (hence vasectomy). During ejaculation semen will go through a small tube called the ejaculatory duct and out through the urethra (water pipe).

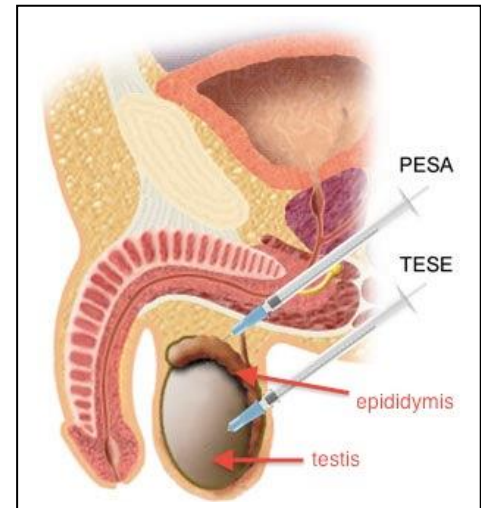
Azoospermia is the lack of sperm in the ejaculate. This can be either caused by obstruction or other causes not related to obstruction (known as non obstructive azoospermia or NOA)

Obstruction can occur anywhere from the testis to the urethra.

It is important that male patients with azoospermia are assessed by a urologist with a specialist interest in male infertility.

Once a full assessment has occurred there may be no reversible cause for the azoospermia.

If this is the case then sperm retrieval may be recommended.



Sperm can be obtained from the epididymis or testis.

The procedures are called PESA (Percutaneous Epididymal Sperm Aspiration) or TeSE (Testicular sperm extraction)

Almost all men with an obstructive cause will have sperm retrieved successfully from one of the above techniques. For non obstructive causes the success is lower but it does depend on the underlying cause and results of tests that will be carried out (such as blood tests and examination findings).