The urologists at Chesapeake Urology are committed to providing you with the most personal care for life’s most personal issues. A vasectomy is one of those personal decisions that our team is here to help you through.

Contact the vasectomy specialists at Chesapeake Urology at 877-422-8237 or visit www.chesapeakeurology.com for more information on our services.
At some point in every couple’s lives, the discussion about whether or not to have more children comes up. When a couple decides that their family is complete and it’s time to explore permanent methods of birth control to prevent future pregnancies, a vasectomy is a trusted and effective choice.

While a vasectomy is a procedure performed on a man, many women have questions and concerns that need to be addressed before a couple can proceed with confidence. For most men, anxiety about whether a vasectomy will hurt or cause sexual dysfunction is among the top concerns. Women too, have questions about how a vasectomy will affect their relationship, both sexually and emotionally.

The specialists at Chesapeake Urology encourage women to ask questions and get as much information about vasectomy as possible. Our team of specialists understands that this is a major life decision and has provided important answers to many of the most common questions women have in this pamphlet.

A vasectomy is 99.85% effective as a birth control method and will not interfere with a man’s sex drive, ability to have erections, sensation of orgasm, or ability to ejaculate.
WHAT IS A VASECTOMY AND HOW DOES IT PERMANENTLY PREVENT PREGNANCY?

A vasectomy is a permanent and effective means for preventing pregnancy. A vasectomy works by cutting the vas deferens, the tubes that carry sperm from the testes to the penis. This prevents the sperm from exiting the penis during ejaculation. After a vasectomy, a man’s body will continue to produce sperm, but the sperm die and are reabsorbed by the body.

The procedure is performed in the urologist’s office or in one of Chesapeake Urology’s state-of-the-art Summit ambulatory surgical centers. Recovery is often painless and men are able to return to normal daily activities in only a couple of days. Best yet, after the initial waiting period of about 8-12 weeks for the sperm count to become zero, couples can enjoy sexual activity without the worry of pregnancy or the use of other methods of birth control.*

ADVANTAGES OF A VASECTOMY

- Safe and permanent method of birth control
- 99.85% effective as a birth control method
- Will not interfere with a man’s sex drive, ability to have erections, sensation of orgasm, or ability to ejaculate
- Can be reversed by one of Chesapeake Urology’s highly skilled microsurgeons (aptly called a vasectomy reversal)

WHAT IF THE VASECTOMY DOESN’T WORK AND I GET PREGNANT?

A vasectomy is 99.85% effective as a favored birth control method. If a woman becomes pregnant after the man has a vasectomy, it is most often due to the couple not waiting for the sperm count to be zero. It typically takes about 20-25 ejaculations for the sperm to be gone from the man’s semen following a vasectomy. It is very important that the man have a follow up test of his semen to confirm a zero sperm count before forgoing all other methods of birth control.

MY PARTNER IS WORRIED THAT A VASECTOMY WILL HURT – WILL IT?

Understandably, many men worry that a vasectomy will be painful because of the sensitivity of this area of the body. Fortunately, most men are relieved to find that post-vasectomy, they do not experience pain, or only have minimal discomfort. During the procedure, the penis and surrounding area is numbed and the man will not feel any sensation or pain. Any discomfort following the vasectomy is relieved by ice packs, compression and over the counter pain medication and typically subsides after the first day.

Are we too young to consider a vasectomy?

When and if to have a vasectomy is a very personal decision made between a man and woman. There is no right or wrong age or time to have a vasectomy. If you and your partner feel that your family is complete or that you do not wish to have children, a vasectomy may be a good choice. Open and honest communication is important for couples of all ages when making this decision.
IS HAVING MY “TUBES TIED” EASIER OR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A VASECTOMY?

A tubal ligation, also knowing as having your “tubes tied,” is a surgical procedure where a gynecologist closes off the fallopian tubes so that no sperm is able to reach an egg. The procedure, when not performed during a C-section, is typically performed under general anesthesia in an outpatient ambulatory surgery center. As with any surgical procedure, there is a risk of complications such as bleeding and scar tissue and a longer recovery.

A vasectomy, on the contrary, is performed in a urologist’s office, requires local anesthesia, can be performed using a “no scalpel” technique requiring no incisions, and takes only about 15 to 20 minutes. Recovery is virtually pain-free and takes only a few days.

HOW LONG AFTER A VASECTOMY CAN MY PARTNER AND I RESUME SEX?

Urologists recommend that couples wait one to two weeks before resuming sexual activity. It’s important to use other methods of birth control until a lab test is performed to confirm the sperm count in the man’s ejaculate is zero.

WILL A VASECTOMY CAUSE ANY SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN MY PARTNER?

Sexual dysfunction is one of the most common concerns in both men and women following a vasectomy. Rest assured that a vasectomy does NOT interfere with a couple’s sexual satisfaction and does not cause problems with ejaculation or erectile function. A vasectomy does not affect a man’s libido or sexual pleasure. In fact, once a zero sperm count is confirmed, some couples report that sex is better than before the vasectomy because worry about getting pregnant is gone.

IS A VASECTOMY COVERED BY INSURANCE?

The majority of major medical insurance companies do cover all or part of the cost of a vasectomy. Please contact your individual health insurance plan for information on coverage. Chesapeake Urology participates with most major medical insurance plans.

WHAT IF WE CHANGE OUR MINDS? CAN A VASECTOMY BE REVERSED?

Sometimes, life circumstances change (divorce, remarriage, etc.) and years after having a vasectomy, some couples wish to be able to conceive a child naturally. Chesapeake Urology’s Vasectomy Reversal Center of America is one of the country’s leading vasectomy reversal centers, offering success rates of more than 90% to couples who wish to conceive naturally. Our fellowship trained microsurgeons are some of the leading vasectomy reversal specialists in the country. Learn more at www.vasectomyreversalcenterofamerica.com.

* A vasectomy does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. Lab tests must be performed to confirm a zero sperm count before abandoning other methods of contraception to avoid pregnancy.