

UniversityHealthServices

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STERILIZATION

How It Works

There are two procedures available that will prevent unwanted pregnancies:

The "vasectomy" is a fairly safe and simple procedure for men in which the tubes through which the sperm travel from the testes to the penis are cut and blocked. This is an outpatient procedure done under local anesthesia. Neither ejaculation nor orgasm is affected by this procedure.

"Tubal ligations" are performed on women. This procedure involves a more complex operation in which the fallopian tubes are closed so that the egg cannot travel from the ovaries to meet the sperm. Again, ability to have an orgasm is not affected by the procedure.

Effectiveness

Overall effectiveness rate of both procedures is approximately 99%.

Benefits

- Do not need to worry about using any additional methods of birth control
- No known long-term side effects

Drawbacks

- Generally, complications are rare. Check with your health care provider for potential side effects as related to your health history.
- **Serious consideration must be given to long-term plans.** Reversal of both the vasectomy and the tubal ligation is possible. However, these reversal procedures are very expensive, are generally not covered by insurance, and the success rate varies greatly.

Additional Information

Consider these options as a permanent decision. Serious discussion with partner and your own personal views should be key to the decision-making process.

Appointments

Neither of these sterilization procedures are done at UHS; however, appointments can be made at UHS for discussion and/or referral for sterilization procedures.

Appointments at University Health Services can be made in person or by phone. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call and cancel. Otherwise you will be charged for the visit.

To schedule or cancel appointments, call: 863-0774

For more information about health care issues, visit the UHS Web site at www.sa.psu.edu/uhs

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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