

Patient information from Gordon Muir, Consultant Urological Surgeon

Please do not rely on this information unless you have been specifically sent this by Mr Muir

Testicular Biopsy Techniques

This procedure involves having a small piece of testicle removed. This is usually done to help diagnose problems of fertility. It may also be possible to obtain sperms from the testicle directly for use in assisted fertility procedures.

Usually, a portion of testicle is removed by making a small cut in the scrotum (the bag that holds your testicles). You will have some stitches in your scrotum, which will dissolve.

In some men it may only be necessary to insert a small needle device into the testis and in this case no stitches will be needed. This is commonly done in outpatients under local anaesthesia, and sperms may be extracted using the same technique. Either aspiration or biopsy can be carried out using this technique, which can be used to obtain tissue or sperms from the testicle, or sperms from the epididymis.

If the sperm count is very low we may recommend a more detailed biopsy using a surgical microscope under general anaesthesia (microscopically assisted testicular sperm extraction, or Micro TESE,) to maximise the chances of finding sperms. Sperm freezing will usually be recommended at the same time. In this situation you will have seen one of our IVF partners to discuss the pros and cons, as well as being counselled about possible genetic issues.

Micro TESE also involves a small incision in the scrotum (sack) which needs stitches to close it.

Recovery Period

Some pain and discomfort may be experienced but painkillers will be recommended to you. After your operation, you will find that tight fitting Lycra underwear (usually sports undershorts) helps to support the scrotum and alleviate discomfort.

You may also find that your scrotum is a little bruised or swollen; this is normal and will go down in a few days.

You may need a few days off work, but this varies from person-to-person, and depends on the type of employment and the exact operation done. Essentially you should rest until significant swelling and discomfort are no longer present.

After a **percutaneous biopsy** there are no restrictions on bathing. After **open surgical biopsy** you may bath or shower 2 days after your operation but please **DO NOT** use any soaps, creams or bubble bath on the operated area.

The stitches used, if any, are dissolving and will usually fall out after 10-14 days.

If you experience severe pain or bleeding, suspect an infection, or feel acutely unwell, contact us immediately. The signs of infection include:

- Increased heat or tenderness at the site of operation
- Swelling and tightness of the scrotum
- Oozing scar or
- Raised temperature