



Andrology Update

The Hull Andrology Unit

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Christmas closure

The Andrology Unit will be closed from and including **Friday 23rd December 2016** and will re-open on **Friday 6th January 2017**.

New PVSA Guidelines

New guidelines for postvasectomy semen analysis were published earlier this year in the Journal of Clinical Pathology. These supersede any prior guidelines published for PVSA in the UK.

They state that a PVSA semen analysis should take place a minimum of 12 weeks after surgery and after a minimum of 20 ejaculations.

9.4% of PVSA samples were not completely collected.

Examine samples within 4 hour of production if assessing for presence of sperm.

Consider assessing a single sample if all criteria for testing are met.

<http://jcp.bmj.com/content/early/2016/04/15/jclinpath-2016-203731.abstract>

What's in the news at the moment?!

- **Male sleep habits could hurt fertility:**
Less than 6 hours or greater than 9 hours sleep reduced the chance of conceiving (Boston University study presented at ASRM 2016).
- **Two semen samples required for accuracy:**
33% of men classified as having normal parameters based on a single semen sample would be classed as having at least one parameter below WHO reference limits if repeated (Chiu *et al.*, ASRM 2016).
- **Beta blockers and ACE inhibitors reduce semen quality:**
Risk of infertility higher in 11% of people taking beta blockers and 9% of people taking ACE inhibitors (Stanford University, ASRM 2016).
- **Sexually transmitted disease and male infertility:**
Sexually transmitted diseases may cause male infertility through unknown mechanisms (Fode *et al.*, 2016)
- **Low vitamin D levels linked to semen quality:**
Lower sperm motility, total sperm count, inhibin B, sex-hormone-binding-globulin, testosterone/oestradiol ratio and higher levels of free sex steroids (Jensen *et al.*, 2016).

Points to remember – User guidance

- In 2016 there has been an increase in the number of requests for infertility testing being taken to Pathology – these samples will not be tested. Please advise patients to take infertility samples **directly** to the Andrology department within one hour of production.
- There is a new User Guide on our website – this gives up-to-date information on our acceptance criteria.
- To include a GP name (not registrar) and surgery.

