Overview

Useful For
Determining absence or presence of sperm postvasectomy

Method Name
Manual

NY State Available
No

Specimen

Specimen Type
Semen

Specimen Required
Specimen must arrive within 24 hours of collection. Send specimen Monday through Thursday only and not the day before a holiday. If holiday falls on a Saturday, holiday will be observed on the preceding Friday. Sunday holidays are observed on the following Monday. Specimen should be collected and packaged as close to shipping time as possible. Laboratory does not perform testing on weekends.

Container/Tube: Semen Analysis Kit (T178)

Specimen Volume: Total ejaculate

Collection Instructions: Patient should have 2 to 7 days of sexual abstinence at the time of semen collection for accurate results.

Additional Information: Include the following information: semen volume and number of days of sexual abstinence.

Specimen Minimum Volume
NA

Reject Due To
All specimens will be evaluated by Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

Specimen Stability Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semen</td>
<td>Ambient</td>
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Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
Following a vasectomy, sperm may be found in the semen for 6 weeks to 3 months or longer. Regular ejaculation (every 3-4 days) may eliminate sperm from the reproductive tract more quickly.

To check for the absence of sperm, semen should be evaluated for the presence of sperm 3 months postvasectomy and after a minimum of 20 ejaculations. Because the sperm count may be very low, the semen is centrifuged for concentration purposes.

A negative result from 1 well-mixed postvasectomy semen specimen generally indicates that use of contraception is no longer necessary. Occasional cases have been reported where postvasectomy semen analysis (PVSA) shows intermittent presence of rare nonmotile sperm (RNMS) in the semen.(1)

**Reference Values**

**Zero sperm seen**

**Interpretation**

Patients may stop using other methods of contraception when examination of 1 well-mixed postvasectomy semen specimen shows azoospermia or rare nonmotile sperm (RNMS \( < 100,000 \) nonmotile sperm/mL).

The risk of pregnancy after vasectomy is approximately 1 in 2,000 for men who have postvasectomy azoospermia or postvasectomy semen analysis (PVSA) showing RNMS.(1)

If \( > 100,000 \) nonmotile sperm/mL persist beyond 6 months after vasectomy, then trends of serial PVSAs and clinical judgment should be used to decide whether the vasectomy is a failure and whether repeat vasectomy should be considered.(1)

Vasectomy should be considered a failure if any motile sperm are seen on PVSA at 6 months after vasectomy, in which case repeat vasectomy should be considered.

**Cautions**

No significant cautionary statements

**Clinical Reference**


**Performance**

**Method Description**

Seminal fluid is examined microscopically for sperm. Specimen is centrifuged if no sperm are seen and re-examined for the presence or absence of sperm. If sperm are present, the number and motility are assessed and reported.(Keel BA, Webster BW: CRC Handbook of the Laboratory Diagnosis and Treatment of Infertility. Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, 1990)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**

Monday through Friday; Upon arrival

**Analytic Time**

1 day
Maximum Laboratory Time
4 days

Specimen Retention Time
Specimens are discarded after testing

Performing Laboratory Location
Rochester

Fees and Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their Regional Manager. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
89321

LOINC® Information

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