



South East Fertility Clinic
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SPERM CRYOPRESERVATION AND STORAGE

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Sperm cryopreservation and storage (sperm banking) is a successful and established method of preserving a man's fertility. Sperm banking is suitable for any man aged 19 or over who may wish to father children in the future, but who is about to embark on a therapy that may permanently jeopardise his fertility.

- ❖ Men often store sperm prior to a vasectomy as insurance for the future should they decide to father another child. Sperm cryopreservation is a good alternative to vasectomy reversal as it is less invasive, less expensive and can be more successful.
- ❖ Patients undergoing cancer treatments are urged to store sperm prior to these procedures since radiation, chemotherapy or surgery may render them sterile.
- ❖ Men undergoing surgery for bladder, spinal or prostate conditions, or more rarely gender-reassignment, may wish to bank sperm.
- ❖ Some courses of long-term drugs may affect sperm production or cause erectile failure.
- ❖ Men in high-risk occupations, such as the police or army may wish to insure their future fertility against an injury that could affect their fertility.

How to arrange sperm banking

Sperm banking requires up to 5 visits to the clinic to provide sperm samples. Appointments are available between 9 and 3. In emergencies we operate a "walk-in service" for men who need to start chemotherapy or radiotherapy immediately.

We would prefer semen samples to be produced at the Clinic, but an embryologist can go to the patient's hospital to collect a sample in extreme circumstances.

Before we can bank any sperm HFEA consent forms must be completed. These give the clinic clear instructions on the man's intention for use and storage of his sperm, including specific consent regarding posthumous treatment. Screening for blood-borne viruses must also be carried out.

The sperm can be stored for up to 10 years in the first instance. It is possible for the samples to be stored longer than this but certain conditions must be met.