

Testicular biopsy

Testicular biopsy is a procedure where small tissue samples are taken from the testicle. Testicular biopsy **is performed during the course of fertility tests and treatments** if no sperm is found in the ejaculate. The goal is to find sperm, which could be used to perform the microinjection fertilization of the egg cells (ICSI) during IVF treatment, from the testicle tissue sample. One tissue sample is sent to a pathologist for analysis. This will provide information on the structure of the testicular tissue and the nature of the dysfunction in semen production. The procedure is performed as an outpatient procedure, and one day of sick leave is prescribed for the day of the procedure.

Preparing for the procedure

You are allowed to eat a light breakfast on the morning of the procedure unless **otherwise instructed**. Take a **premedication 1 grams of paracetamol** at home with a small sip of water. We recommend you dress in comfortable clothes on the day of the procedure. Put on underwear that supports the scrotal area. Leave your valuables at home.

Procedure

The procedure is carried out in **local anesthesia**. It is possible to receive relaxing medication and pain medication intravenously if required. During the procedure you might feel stretching and sensation of pressure, but no pain. If necessary, a biopsy is taken from both testicles. The procedure lasts for 20 to 40 minutes.

The fertility laboratory will look for sperm from the tissue samples. A more thorough analysis of the sample by the pathologist will be ready in about two weeks.

After the procedure

At the end of the procedure, pressure is applied on the biopsy location for a few minutes to prevent the formation of hematoma and swelling in the scrotum. After the procedure you can rest in the recovery room if required and receive pain medication. Before you are discharged, we offer you a light snack and tell you the test result and its significance with regards to the fertility treatments. After the procedure you can be discharged when you feel you have recovered.

If intravenous pain medication has been used during the procedure, you are prohibited from driving a car or other motor vehicle on the day of the procedure.

Treatment at home

Use **underwear that support the scrotal area** (no boxers) for a couple of days. Avoid **all sports and strenuous activity** for a week. You can take NSAIDs for the pain, but avoid Aspirin® and Disperin medications, because they increase the risk of developing a hematoma. **Due to a risk of infection**, bathing in a bathtub or swimming is not recommended for a few days after the surgery.

Possible problems

The testicles are usually tender after the local anesthesia wears off. The most common complication is a hematoma and/or swelling. These do not normally require treatment, and they will disappear within a couple of weeks.