Concerns Of Infertility Patients Prior To Vasectomy In A Brazilian Population

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Objective: Even though patients are becoming more and more aware of the risks of the vasectomy procedure for sterilization purposes, there is a lack of information on this issue. The goal of this study was to evaluate the reasons for undergoing a vasectomy amongst our patients, their concerns of future fertility, and the feasibility of vasectomy reversal and semen cryopreservation before the sterilization procedure.

Design: Prospective study

Materials and Methods: 889 vasectomies for voluntary sterilization were performed from January 1999 to March 2003. An Andrologist obtained epidemiological information from the patient at the time of his first appointment as part of our protocol. Patients were asked the reasons for undergoing a vasectomy and their concerns about future fertility. In addition, the patients were given information on our pregnancy outcome rates after vasectomy reversal using cryopreserved sperm frozen prior to the sterilization procedure.

Results: The mean age ± standard deviation of the patients was 33.8 ± 6.51 years (range 25-52 years). Patient responses regarding the reasons for undergoing a vasectomy was as follows: 55.8% - it is a simple and safe procedure, 42.6% - it is better for the partner, 1.8% - considered it as an economical procedure, and 0.8% - considered it as a good alternative to expansive oral contraceptives. When patients were asked about their chances of achieving a pregnancy if a vasectomy reversal in the future was necessary: 2.8% - considered it as very important to know before vasectomy, 95.3% considered it important, and for a small number (1.9%) it was not important. When patients were asked about the possibility to cryopreserve semen before the vasectomy, 74.3% considered sperm cryopreservation information as important prior to vasectomy, whereas 25.7% said not important. Of those patients who said that sperm cryopreservation information is important, 78.4% responded that they would cryopreserve their semen if available to them. When they were asked about concerns regarding future fertility, 99.8% said that they have none, only 0.2% had a concern.

Conclusion: Most of the men who undergo a vasectomy choose it mainly because it is easy for them as a couple. Also, most of these men are not worried about future fertility.
but indicated that it is very important for them to learn about the possibility of a vasectomy reversal if needed. Furthermore, most of these men would cryopreserve their semen if they were offered this opportunity.

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