

The diagnosis of male fertility problems



If you have been trying for a baby with your partner unsuccessfully for twelve months you need to see your GP for advice.

However, you need to see your GP sooner if you have a problem that could interfere with your fertility for example:

- **History of undescended testicles**
- **Injury or trauma to the testicles**
- **Sexually transmitted infections**

Your GP may examine you and arrange for you to have a semen analysis. You can see our separate leaflets on this process.

If the semen analysis reveals problems with your sperm count, motility and/ or shape (known as morphology) your GP should refer you to see a fertility specialist.

The fertility specialist will examine your testicles to see if there is any physical sign of a specific fertility problem.

The fertility specialist will often also arrange for you to have further tests, these may include:

- **A blood test to check your fertility hormones**
- **Ultrasound scan of the scrotum to detect any possible blockage**
- **Genetic tests in some cases which will help assess any potential additional 'heritable' risks to your children**
- **Post-ejaculation urine analysis in a few cases**

Results of relevant selected tests, along with a discussion with you of your medical history and personal wishes will help the specialist to guide you to the best treatment.

Prepared for the UK Professional Fertility Societies by The British Andrology Society (Registered Charity Number 115550). If you want more information about male related aspects of fertility visit the patient section of our website at www.britishandrology.org.uk