



Frequently Asked Questions about Andrology

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Q: What are some of the most common causes of male infertility?

A: Physical factors may include varicocele, undescended testicles, injury or previous surgery to the testicles, exposure to radiotherapy, environmental toxins or drugs, and alcohol. Genetic factors include Klinefelter's syndrome, Young's syndrome, and cystic fibrosis. Infections and sexually transmitted diseases may also cause fertility problems. There are also a percentage of men that have no obvious cause for their infertility. An fertility specialist and urologist can investigate possible causes for the fertility difficulties.

Q: Are there medical or surgical treatments for male infertility?

A: In some cases, such as varicocele, surgical repair may be an option. Certain drugs have also been shown to improve sperm quality if there are underlying hormone deficiencies and this option should be discussed with your doctor. These include Clomiphene citrate, tamoxifen, antibiotics, and steroids.

Q: What parameters are tested in a semen analysis?

A: There are several parameters tested in a semen analysis. Semen characteristics, as well as sperm motility, concentration, morphology, viability and membrane function, are all performed.

Q: Why are there so many different sperm preparations for artificial insemination?

A: Sperm preparations for artificial insemination are used to enhance sperm quality. Which sperm preparation is used is dependent upon the sperm quality and function. A fertility specialist can make a determination based on diagnostic tests for the couples' best interests.

Q: Do I need an appointment to have a test done?

A: All testing is done by appointment only to insure your test is given the proper attention and tested within specific time parameters.

Q: Do I have to come to the Abbott Northwestern Hospital to have my test done?

A: We have satellite facilities at Mercy Hospital, Unity Hospital, and United Hospital for some limited diagnostic testing. Our main laboratory is located at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Abbott Northwestern Hospital site performs all diagnostic testing and prepares samples for artificial insemination. Please refer to [Allina Testing Location and Times](#) page for specific tests performed and phone numbers to call for setting up an appointment.

Q: Why do I need a doctor's order for sample testing?

A: As a reference lab and as part of our CAP certification, we are required to have a signed doctor's order for all diagnostic tests and procedures performed by the Andrology Laboratory. The doctor can fax the order over before your appointment, or you can bring in the order with you. The order needs to have your name (as the patient), the test or sperm preparation requested, the patient's diagnosis, and the doctor's signature.

Q: What if I do not have a doctor?

A: We will need to have an order to perform testing from a medical doctor licensed by the state of Minnesota. This doctor may be your partner's OB/GYN, your family doctor, or other medical provider. Your test results will be sent to the doctor ordering your test.

Q: Why do I need to have 2-5 days of sexual abstinence?

A: It has been noted that less than 48 hours of sexual abstinence may affect the test results. In addition, long abstinence periods may also affect the outcome of the parameters tested. Any time between two and five days of sexual abstinence is ideal.

Q: Will my insurance cover the cost of my test and/or inseminations?

A: Every insurance company and their coverage policies are different; therefore it is your responsibility to check on your coverage. We will submit test billing to your insurance company if you bring your insurance card on the day of your appointment. If you need your testing billed to your insurance company any time after the day of your appointment, then you will need to call the Allina Health System Business Office at 612-775-9300.

Q: Can we collect a sample for a test/preparation through intercourse?

A: Samples should ideally be collected by masturbation into a medically sterile container. Condoms should never be used to aid in the collections of the sample as they may be toxic to sperm. If you need to collect a sample with intercourse, you can purchase non-toxic non-spermicidal condoms from our laboratory. Please contact us for specific instructions regarding this collection method. Interrupted intercourse should not be used as this may result in the loss of the most critical portion of the ejaculate and the specimen may be contaminated with cells or bacteria from the vagina.

Q: Who will do my insemination?

A: If your doctor is outside of the Center for Reproductive Medicine, the insemination will likely be done in your doctor's office. If you are being inseminated with your partner's or donor sperm and your doctor would like you to have inseminations done at the Abbott Northwestern Hospital Andrology Laboratory, we will need specific orders for this. There is an extra charge that will be billed to you for use of our facilities. Please call us if you have any questions.

Q: What if my husband is going to be out of town when I ovulate?

A: If you know that your husband is going to be unavailable for artificial insemination when you ovulate, you have the option of freezing one or more samples for short term storage. Contact your doctor to find out if this option is appropriate for your situation.

Q: How do I get my results?

A: Your test results will be sent to the ordering physician in approximately 7 days. You will need to contact your physician to receive your test results.

ALLINA TESTING LOCATIONS and TIMES

ABBOTT NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL

2800 Building
2800 Chicago Avenue South, Suite 340
Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone (612) 863-4115
(appointments only, no drop-offs)
Fax (612) 863-4146

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (last appointment taken 3:15 pm)

Saturday/Sunday 7:30 am - 10:30 am
(inseminations only)

Holidays

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day, Easter Sunday

Call Laboratory for other Holiday Hours

Tests Performed: All Andrology tests and insemination preparations.

UNITED HOSPITAL

333 North Smith Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
Scheduling (612) 863-4115
(appointments only, no drop-offs)
Fax (612)863-4146
Lost? (651) 241- LOST (5678)

Monday & Friday 7:00 am - 10:50 am

Tu, We, Th, Sat, Sun & Holidays Closed

Tests Performed: Semen Analysis
Post Vasectomy Analysis

UNITY HOSPITAL

550 Osborne Road NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Phone (763) 236-4800
(drop-offs accepted at time below)

Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Saturday/Sunday/Holidays Closed

Tests Performed: Semen Analysis
Post Vasectomy Analysis

MERCY HOSPITAL

4050 Coon Rapids Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Phone (763) 236-8158
(drop-offs accepted at times below)

Monday-Friday 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Saturday/Sunday/Holidays Closed

Tests Performed: Semen Analysis
Post Vasectomy Analysis