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Testicular biopsy is performed to see if there are any sperm cells present in the testis. If there are they can be stored for future treatment. It is performed under sedation or a general anaesthetic.

The scrotum should usually be shaved pre-operatively to reduce the risk of infection. The wound may be closed with a stitch and these are usually dissolvable. Occasionally you may have to have them removed within seven days' time.

The procedure involves taking a small biopsy from one testis. This will be sent direct to the lab for analysis to see if mature sperm can be identified within the testis. If there are not another area will be tried. The procedure can either be done through the skin or alternatively by a small opening in the scrotum. Sometimes the result will show only immature or no sperm. When sufficient sperm are found- enough to undergo at least one procedure- the operation is finished. Usually enough sperm is found to last for more than one ICSI treatment. There will not be enough sperm for natural insemination. The sperm are then frozen by the embryologist.

The implications of these results will be discussed at your appointment in the Clinic.

After the Operation

Regardless of which incision you have had you may expect a degree of bruising, swelling and mild discomfort of the whole scrotal area. This usually settles within a few days.

You will be told which type of stitches have been used and arrangements will be made for you to visit your practice nurse for removal, if necessary.

Following discharge from hospital you can have a bath or shower, unless otherwise instructed. It is essential that the water does not contain any cosmetics until the wound has completely healed. Use a clean towel and keep the area as dry as possible. Do not use talcum powder until the wound has healed.

Paracetamol can be taken at home, if required, as directed on the packet.

You should avoid strenuous exercise until any bruising/swelling has settled and the wound has completely healed.

Follow-up

You will get the results on the same day. Once the laboratory report is available you will be sent details so you know what has been stored.

Once sperm have been frozen treatment may be started or delayed as you wish.

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