

VARICOCELE TREATMENT: SURGERY OR EMBOLIZATION?

WHICH APPROACH IS RIGHT FOR YOUR PATIENTS?



	Surgery	Embolization
Success rate	~90%	~90%
Improvement in sperm count	~3 months	~3 months
Setting	Outpatient	Outpatient
Bilateral disease	Treated through two surgical incisions	Both sides treated from one pinhole access site. No surgical incision.
Spermatic cord	Dissection involved	No cord dissection
Return to exercise	2–4 weeks	1–5 days
Return to sexual activity	~4 weeks	1–2 days

WHY CONSIDER EMBOLIZATION

- » No surgical incision in the groin
- » No stitches
- » No risk of spermatic cord injury
- » Easy bilateral treatment from a single small access site
- » Quicker recovery and return to normal activities, including sexual activity
- » An excellent option for persistence or recurrence after surgery

RISKS & COMPLICATIONS

Surgery

- » Hydrocele formation
- » Infection or bleeding
- » Testicular artery injury (rare with an experienced provider)
- » Persistence or recurrence
- » Mild pain at the incision site

Embolization

- » Persistence or recurrence
- » Rare coil migration
- » Rare risks bleeding or infection

WHEN SURGERY RECURS, WE CAN HELP

Recurrence is a recognized risk of both procedures. When a varicocelectomy persists or recurs, embolization offers a non-surgical way to treat it- no need to re-operate in a previously dissected field.

HOW EMBOLIZATION WORKS

Varicocele embolization is performed by an interventional radiologist, who inserts a tiny catheter into a vein in the upper thigh or neck and uses x-ray imaging to guide it to the veins around the testicle. The abnormal vein is closed using medical coils and/or medication, redirecting blood flow through healthy veins. Most patients return to normal activity within a day or two.

Patients with suspected varicocele can be referred directly to our center for consultation, imaging evaluation, and treatment when appropriate.

The physicians of University Radiology Vascular & Interventional Center have performed vascular and interventional radiology therapies for many years and are among New Jersey's leading experts in these procedures.

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