

Management and Information Giving – Notes for Actor

Patient demographics:

You are Dave Smith, a 42-year-old male who has come to the GP to discuss your upcoming vasectomy.

You have a long term female partner.

Keep pressing your questions until you are satisfied with the answer from the student.

Understanding of the procedure:

- The tubes which carry sperm get cut and that stops the sperm from being released.

Concern 1:

- “I know that it’s a relatively simple operation, but is there anything I need to be worried about?”

Concern 2:

- “Once I’ve got the vasectomy, is it effective straight away?”

Concern 3:

- “Do I have any other options apart from this, and are they more effective than a vasectomy?”

Management and Information Giving – Notes for Candidate

Role: Foundation Year 1 doctor in a GP centre

This is Dave, a 42-year-old male who has represented to the GP to discuss his upcoming vasectomy.

You will need to establish the patient's understanding of the procedure, provide practical advice regarding the procedure.

The patient will also request a specific treatment related to the common condition. You will need to discuss this treatment, whether it is appropriate, and if so - how to administer it and the recognised side effects.

If the requested treatment is inappropriate, you should explain why.

The station will last 10 minutes but you will be notified by an invigilator at 8 minutes

Management and Information Giving – Examiner marksheet

- Good professionalism throughout
- Open and non-judgemental communication, natural flow to the conversation
- Shows empathy at appropriate times, doesn't come across as forced or unnatural
- Explores the patient's understanding of the procedure – two tubes carry sperm from the testes to the penis, we cut these tubes or tie them, under local anaesthetic, and this stops the sperm from moving to the penis, which means you won't be able to have children.

- CONCERN 1: talks about the possibility of failure (1/2000). Also discusses operative risks like allergy to anaesthetic. Post-operative complications like chronic pain, haematoma, and infections. But reassures that these complications all have a low chance of happening.

- CONCERN 2: vasectomy is not effective immediately, contraception is required for 2 months post-procedure in the form of barrier contraception or COCP/POP/coil for the partner. A follow up test in 12 weeks is needed to confirm the absence of sperm cells.

- CONCERN 3: discusses alternate options like spermicidal agents and condoms. Talks about the individual risks and benefits of each method, as well as effectiveness. Reassures the patient that they can always have more time to change their mind and rebook the procedure if needs be. Encourage to discuss various options with the partner.

Global Impression:

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail

Patient Impression/comments: