

Antisperm Antibody Testing

What is Antisperm Antibody Testing?

An antisperm antibody test is actually comprised of two tests: A full semen profile and a test for the presence of antisperm antibodies.

Why is Antisperm Antibody Testing Necessary?

Some men will have reduced fertility as a direct result of producing antibodies against their own sperm. This condition can be especially pronounced in men who have experienced trauma to the testicles, a vasectomy or as a cross immune response to certain bacterial infections. The antibodies produced by the man bind directly to the surface of the sperm, often causing clumping, which can be observed under a microscope. The clumping reduces the overall motility and thus the progress up the women's reproductive tract. It can also reduce and in some cases entirely block the sperm from fertilizing the egg.

Who Can Benefit From Antisperm Antibody Testing?

Any man who has demonstrated low motility or clumping on past semen analysis could be a candidate for antisperm antibody testing. As well, men with a history of testicular trauma, vasectomy reversal or a past history of urogenital infection can benefit from testing.

Is There an Effective Treatment for the Presence of Antisperm Antibodies?

No, there is no effective treatment for the presence of antisperm antibodies. However, by identifying those men who have antisperm antibodies sooner a physician will be able to more rapidly identify assisted human reproductive techniques that will benefit patients. A couple who have antisperm antibodies should consider in vitro fertilization with intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) as this technique of physically placing a sperm inside an individual egg will effectively bypass the effects of the antisperm antibodies.

Cost of the Procedure

Sperm washes are not covered by British Columbia MSP. Please see The Kelowna Regional Fertility Centre's fee schedule for current pricing.