



The Urology Division of Integrated Medical Services

Vasectomy Public Statement

The Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception has consulted with the authors of the new studies, medical researchers, urologists and national and international family planning and research organizations. Their conclusions for patients are listed below:

The findings of the Giovannucci studies are of potential public health importance in countries where prostate cancer is common, but may be much less so in countries where the disease is rare.

For men considering vasectomy and for men who have had vasectomy: all contraceptive methods carry some risk. In the general population, these risks are lower than those associated with pregnancy. When making decisions about contraception, each individual or couple must decide how to weigh the various risks; in light of their particular circumstances.

Since the relationship between vasectomy and prostate cancer is unproven and the method of carcinogenesis is unknown, reversal of vasectomy to reduce the risk of prostate cancer is not recommended.

The American Cancer Society recommends that all men over 50, including men who have had vasectomies, undergo regular prostate screening exams, using the most sensitive methods available for early detection. A VSC encourages all men to follow these recommendations.

Approximately 1 in 11 men in the United States develop prostate cancer; most of these men have never undergone vasectomy. Prostate cancer occurs most frequently in men 80 years or older. In the United States, the disease is more common in black men than in white men. For more information about prostate cancer, men should ask their doctors, the local office of the American Cancer Society, or the American Urological Association.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call one of us.

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