

Permanent Birth Control (Sterilization)



Tubal Methods (“tubal” or “tubes tied”)

These methods block or cut the Fallopian tubes so that eggs cannot meet sperm. There are a few ways that clinicians can do this.

Vasectomy

This method prevents sperm from leaving the testes.

How does it work?

These methods work by blocking the tubes in the belly that connect the ovaries to the uterus.

A clinician reaches the tubes through your belly. The clinician may: put bands or clips on the tubes, use heat to seal the ends of the tubes, remove a piece of each tube, or remove the tubes completely.

This method works by snipping the tube in the scrotum that sperm moves through.

How well will it work?

95-98%, varies with method

>99%

How much does it cost?

Covered by most insurance plans and Medicaid (if over age 21).

If not covered, costs \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Covered by most insurance plans and Medicaid. It is not covered by Medicare.

If not covered, costs \$350 to \$1,000.

Things to Know

These methods are permanent and highly effective in preventing pregnancy.

Some methods can be done right after giving birth.

The procedure must be done in a hospital operating room.

Does not protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Do not use these methods if you cannot use general anesthesia or have certain diseases of the reproductive organs.

Reversal is very difficult. Some procedures cannot be reversed.

Post-procedure pain may occur and you may need a day or two to recover.

Rare complications include infection, bleeding, pain that does not get better, and reactions to general anesthesia.

Works right away.

Rarely, pregnancy may occur. If it does, there is a higher chance it will be ectopic (outside the uterus).

Some state laws require a waiting period. For example, you may have to give consent 30 days before the procedure.

These methods are permanent and highly effective in preventing pregnancy.

It is more effective, safer, and cheaper than tubal procedures.

Can be done in the clinician’s office. It usually takes about 10-15 minutes.

No general anesthesia needed.

Does not protect against HIV and other STIs

Do not use this method if you have a current infection in your penis, prostate, or scrotum (such as an STI).

Reversal is difficult and does not always work.

Post-procedure bruising and pain may occur and you may need a day or two to recover.

Rare complications include infection, pain that does not get better, and bleeding.

It takes up to 3 months to work. Use a back-up birth control method until a semen test shows no sperm.

Rarely, pregnancy may occur.