

Mayo Clinic Minute: Reversing a vasectomy

VIDEO	AUDIO
	About a half-million vasectomies are performed in the U.S. every year for men who no longer want to have children. And of those, 6% will elect to have it reversed at some point in their lives.
Sevann Helo, M.D. Urology Mayo Clinic	"It's definitely more involved. So vasectomy is a 15- to 30-minute procedure, but a reversal is a 2½-hour to four-hour procedure."
	The vas deferens tubes carry sperm from the testicles into the semen.
	"We're essentially putting those two tubes back together that were initially cut for the vasectomy."
	Almost all vasectomies can be reversed, but it doesn't guarantee success in conceiving a child. Pregnancy rates after a reversal range from 30% to 90%, depending on the procedure.
	And after a vasectomy reversal, there is some recovery time.
	"I generally tell patients to take it easy for at least four weeks. That means heavy lifting; straining; strenuous exercise, including sexual activity. So after four weeks, a couple can start trying to conceive."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.