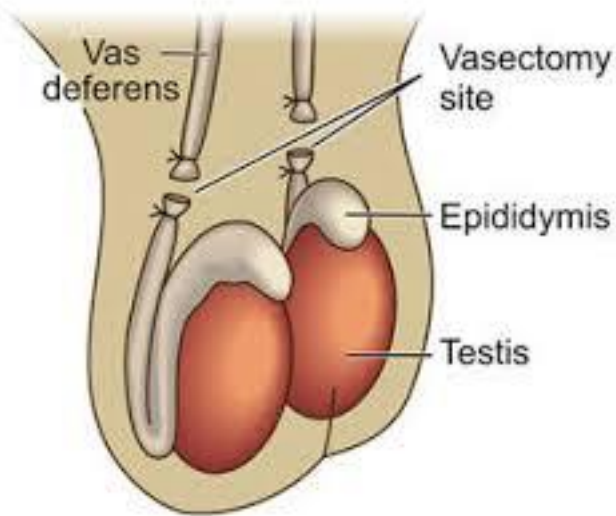


Failure rate:
<1%

11: STERILIZATION

Sterilization is the use of surgery or other procedures to make a person incapable of reproduction. Sterilization does NOT protect against STIs. Sometimes sterilization is reversible.



VASECTOMY

A male can be sterilized by a procedure called a vasectomy. A doctor makes a small incision in the scrotum and then severs each vas deferent, the tubes that carry sperm from the testes. The male still releases semen during ejaculation, but after four to six weeks the semen does not contain sperm.

TUBAL LIGATION

The most common method of sterilization for females is called tubal ligation. During this procedure, a woman's fallopian tubes are cut or closed, blocking sperm's access to a released egg. This can also be accomplished by a *sterilization implant*, a small coiled implant inserted in each fallopian tube.

Sterilization of the female reproductive system does not affect a woman's sexual function or menstrual cycle.

