

Can Sperm Still Process and Be Recovered Following Removal of or Radiation to the Prostate Gland?

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Disclaimer: Please recognize that I am not a Medical Doctor. I have been an avid student researching and studying prostate cancer as a survivor and continuing patient since 1992. I have dedicated my retirement years to continued research and study in order to serve as an advocate for prostate cancer awareness, and, from a activist patient's viewpoint, to help patients, caregivers, and others interested develop an understanding of prostate cancer, its treatment options, and the treatment of the side effects that often accompany treatment. Readers of this paper must understand that the comments or recommendations I make are not intended to be the procedure to blindly follow; rather, they are to be reviewed as my opinion, then used for further personal research, study, and subsequent discussion with the medical professional/physician providing prostate cancer care.

This URL takes you to a pretty good explanation of how sperm is produced and subsequently carried to ejaculate to the female reproductive tract.

<http://tinyurl.com/yzuevhs>

As explained, sperm is produced by quite an interesting process in the testes, then moved to the epididymis where it is stored and matured. And from there it travels via the vas deferens, seminal vesicles, etc. But we are talking about what happens when the prostate is removed or radiated and thus the route of travel has been removed/blocked. It appears that sperm can still be produced in the testes and continued movement to the epididymis, but here is where we run into the problem. As noted in the URL explanation, "sperm are still produced, but they can no longer reach the outside of the body, they eventually deteriorate and are reabsorbed. The man is then sterile." From what I gather, that sterility is only because the sperm have no way to travel in the normal manner. That appears to indicate that sperm may still be produced in the testes and make it to the epididymis, and if not "recovered" by some process, "deteriorate and are reabsorbed." And that poses the question – as sperm is produced, is there a point in time when that sperm can be recovered from the epididymis for use in artificial insemination before it deteriorates? And is there a manner in which sperm count can be measured from the epididymis?

This URL appears to indicate there is a recovery process but rather than "artificial insemination" is rather "intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI):"

http://www.malereproduction.com/12_spermaspiration.html

As noted in the foregoing URL, this process of recovery requires the expertise of a infertility physician with the appropriate equipment. A listing of infertility physicians and locations can be reviewed here:

<http://ihr.com/infertility/provider/malereproduction.html>