



What testing does the Andrology laboratory provide?

Andrology performs tests that help assist doctors investigate couples fertility issues including:

- Comprehensive semen analysis (often referred to as a sperm count)
- Post-vasectomy semen analysis
- Examination for the presence of retrograde ejaculation
- Checking for the presence of anti-sperm antibodies
- Seminal fructose assessment
- Semen microbiology (microscopy and culture for microorganisms)
- Sperm DNA integrity assessment (sperm chromatin structure assay)
- Female cervical mucus hostility testing
- Trial wash to determine likely assisted conception options
- Therapeutic preparations of sperm for assisted reproduction
- Sperm freezing and banking
- Donor sperm program

Sperm Banking and Fertility Preservation Service for Males and Females

[Fertility preservation](#) services are also available for oncology patients of all ages undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy. This service is provided in conjunction with the [Department of Reproductive Medicine, the Royal Hospital for Women](#). In addition to the above this laboratory provides sperm banking for couples undergoing fertility treatment. Please contact the fertility clinic for assistance if you require this service (T: 02 9382 6633).

Semen Analysis

A semen analysis is the first line of male fertility investigation and may help to provide a clear picture of a man's fertility potential. A semen analysis can be performed at the SEALS Andrology laboratory following a referral from your general practitioner or specialist medical practitioner.

Q. What does a semen analysis involve?

A semen sample is produced via masturbation, following 2 to 5 days of abstinence, into a suitable sterile container. This can be done at home and delivered directly to the Andrology lab within 40 minutes of collection. Alternatively, there is the option to use a discreet room at the laboratory to collect your sample.

It is important to make an appointment for all semen analysis procedures to ensure the Andrologists are on site and that they have sufficient time to analyse the sample. Contact the Andrology lab to make this appointment (T: 02 9382 6643). More detailed [specimen collection information](#) will be provided when you arrange an appointment.

Q. How is the semen tested?

The sample is analysed by an experienced Andrologist using a microscope to determine the numbers (concentration) of sperm in the semen, their ability to swim (motility) and how many sperm have a normal shape (morphology). The semen will also be assessed for the presence of anti-sperm antibodies. A normal result for a semen analysis will show a sperm count of at least 15 million sperm per mL, with at least 32% of the sperm showing forward progressive motility. At least 4% or more of the sperm should be normally shaped and anti-sperm antibodies should affect less than 10% of the sperm.

Q. What if the semen analysis result is not within a normal range?

If any of the results are inconclusive, borderline or outside the normal values your doctor may request that you have a second semen sample analysed. This is because a man's semen analysis can vary considerably from one collection to another. In addition to this sperm have a life cycle of 72 days.

Therefore, life experiences such as illness or stress can temporarily affect sperm production and quality.

Q. How long will it take to get the results?

A standard semen analysis results will usually be available within three days. However, when a semen culture or a sperm DNA integrity assessment has been requested it may take up to 10 days.

Q. Where do I collect my results from?

You can collect your results from your requesting medical practitioner. They will provide an interpretation and explanation of the results.