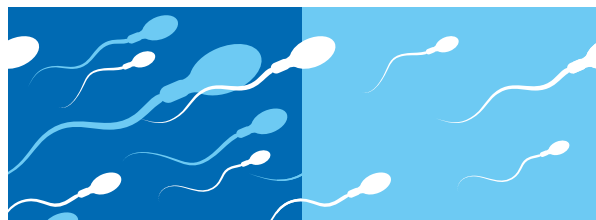


Diagnosing male infertility

This infographic details features which suggest different aetiologies for male factor infertility. A careful history and physical examination will allow identification of risk factors and possible causes.



DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES	LIKELY AETIOLOGIES			
Some or all of these features may be present	HORMONAL	TESTICULAR	OBSTRUCTION	FUNCTIONAL
Azoospermia Sperm absent	✓	✓	✓	
Oligozoospermia Reduced sperm numbers - Severe cases < 5 million per ml	✓	✓		
Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)	Low/normal ≤ 8 IU/L	High > 8 IU/L	Normal 1–8 IU/L	Normal 1–8 IU/L
Luteinizing hormone (LH)	Low/normal ≤ 10 IU/L	High > 10 IU/L	Normal 1–10 IU/L	Normal 1–10 IU/L
Testosterone Diurnal variation in results. Where low, repeat at 9am	Low < 10 nmol/L	Often low < 10 nmol/L	Normal 10–30 nmol/L	Normal 10–30 nmol/L
Testicular volume	Low < 15 mL	Low < 15 mL	Normal ≥ 15 mL	Normal ≥ 15 mL
Low libido, sparse body hair, erectile dysfunction	✓	✓		
Elevated semen leukocytes Round cells that could indicate possible infection		✓	✓	
Low volume or no ejaculate				✓

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE CAUSES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pituitary tumor Anabolic steroid use Androgen use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed and illicit Strong opioid use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such as morphine CHH (Congenital hypogonadotropic hypogonadism) Diabetes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary testicular failure Varicocele Undescended testes (cryptorchidism) Drugs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulfasalazine Methotrexate Nitrofurantoin Calcium channel blockers Erythromycin Tetracycline Spironolactone Genetic disorders, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Klinefelter syndrome Primary ciliary dyskinesia Y chromosome micro-deletions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous cancer therapy Infections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such as mumps Lifestyle factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity Smoking Cannabis use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genitourinary infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chlamydia Ureaplasma Mycoplasma Previous surgery, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hernia repair Orchidopexy Vasectomy Cystic fibrosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associated with congenital bilateral absence of vas deferens (CBAVD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrograde ejaculation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpha blockers Diabetes Pelvic surgery Sexual dysfunction
--	--	---	--	---

