

Specimen Collection and Testing Procedure

1. The patient has collected a semen specimen post-vasectomy according to his physician's instructions. The patient placed the specimen in the plastic vial containing fixative ("POISON") and shipped the specimen to our laboratory. The sperm specimen is diluted approximately 1:5 in fixative.
2. Record the volume inside the vial by using either the markings on the side of the vial or comparison with the sample vials. Volume should be 8 cc of fixative plus semen specimen (8-15 cc total volume). If the specimen is less than 7.5 mL, there is a loss of specimen and the test should be repeated.
3. Vortex the vial for approximately 30 seconds to re-suspend cells.
4. Perform a standard hemacytometer count. Aldehyde-fixed red blood cells (internal control cells, ICCs) have been added to the fixative to serve as an internal control. Count the ICCs in the 25 inner squares of the hemacytometer. RBC's are reported as Present/Absent to the physician, they are an internal control and irrelevant except to verify specimen.
5. Count sperm in all 9 large squares of both sides of the hemacytometer. Record number of sperm counted on worksheet.
6. Using **CALCULATION WORKSHEET/FORMULA**, calculate the number of Sperm/mL for reporting to the physicians office.

